

XIV<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON PUBLIC EDUCATION  
CONVENED BY UNESCO AND THE I. B. E.

GENEVA 1951

SCHOOL MEALS  
AND  
CLOTHING

FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED  
BY THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium,  
Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Ceylon, Colombia,  
Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican  
Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France,  
Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg,  
Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway,  
Panama, Persia, Philippines, Poland, Portugal,  
Salvador, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand,  
Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom,  
United States of America.

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## FOREWORD

This book gives the results of an inquiry conducted by the International Bureau of Education, among the Ministries of Education, on the provision of school meals and clothing. It covers only one aspect of social aid to schoolchildren. To present a full picture of such aid, other aspects of it, such as holiday camps and school medical services, will have also to be studied.

The Council of the International Bureau of Education felt, however, that the study of school meals and clothing should be given priority. The attendance of all children of school age is not always ensured merely by making their schooling free. Further aid is called for in some cases, and factors such as the means of parents, the distance between home and school, and the mother who goes out to work, must be considered. It is above all essential to ensure that no child is impeded in his school work through being insufficiently nourished or inadequately clothed.

By a happy coincidence, the question of school meals and clothing and that of compulsory schooling both appear on the agenda of the forthcoming XIVth International Conference on Public Education. The recommendations this conference sees fit to make concerning school meals and clothing, will thus support whatever measures it suggests for giving every child access to education.

We are deeply grateful to the Ministries of Education for their assistance in this inquiry, and to all those members of the Bureau staff, in particular Miss Delétra, whose cooperation has so greatly helped.

Maddalena PAGANO

*Research Division  
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# QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION

## I. SCHOOL CANTEENS

### *Organisation*

1. How is the school canteen service generally organised in your country? It would be appreciated if your reply included reference to the following points:
  - (a) What authority is responsible for the organisation of school meals (state, municipality, private associations, etc.)?
  - (b) Who finances such service (state, municipality, private associations, etc.)?
  - (c) How and where are school canteens installed, as a general rule?
  - (d) What is the approximate number of children who benefit from school canteens, as compared with the total number of school-children?
  - (e) What is the approximate total cost per annum of the service, and the average cost of one school meal?
  - (f) Is the running of the service checked and controlled in any way, and if so, how and by whom?

### *Recipients of School Meals*

2. In what schools are canteens organised, as a general rule (infant schools, primary schools, etc.), boarders excluded?
3. Are your school canteens used by:
  - (a) only certain categories of children (necessitous children, children living far from school, etc.);
  - (b) all children whose parents have asked for the service; or
  - (c) compulsorily by all children?
4. Are school meals free or do the children pay for them? If latter is the case, how much does each child pay?

### *Meals*

5. Do your school canteens serve only a mid-day meal, or do they also distribute milk, tonics, etc., during the course of the school day?
6. What instructions are issued regarding the general make-up of menus (composition, weight, nutritive values, etc.)? It would be appreciated if you could include in your reply a specimen list of menus for a week.
7. Who is responsible for the serving of the meals, and the supervision of the children at such time?
8. Do the children themselves take any part in the preparation or serving of the meals?

*Miscellaneous*

9. What further information on the subject have you, which you deem useful?
10. Kindly add to your reply if possible the texts of the legal measures affecting school canteens, and any other documents of special interest in this connection. Such will ultimately be placed in the Permanent Exhibition of Education in Geneva, or in the documents collection of the International Bureau of Education Library.

## II. PROVISION OF CLOTHING

1. How is the provision of clothing generally organised in your country? Kindly include a reference in your reply to the following points:
  - (a) What authority is responsible for the organisation of the provision of clothing to schoolchildren (state, municipality, private associations, etc.)?
  - (b) How is this provision made and financed, and what is the approximate total cost per annum of the service?
  - (c) What is the approximate percentage of children who benefit from the service?
2. In what schools is the provision of clothing organised, as a general rule (infant schools, primary schools, etc.)?
3. Under what conditions may a child benefit from the service?
4. What garments are most frequently distributed?
5. Who is concerned in the actual choosing and distributing of garments?
6. What further information do you deem it useful to add?
7. Kindly add to your reply, if possible, the texts of the legal measures affecting the provision of clothing to schoolchildren, and any other documents of special interest in this connection. Such will ultimately be placed in the Permanent Exhibition of Education in Geneva, or in the documents section of the International Bureau of Education Library.



## GENERAL SURVEY

### School Meals

#### ORGANISATION

Some nutritional aid to schoolchildren is provided in all the countries covered by the present inquiry. This does not necessarily mean, however, that a real school meals service is to be found in each country, wherever the need exists, operating as an integral part of the educational system. Each national report goes into more or less detail of what has been achieved in regard to school meals, but it is impossible to trace any underlying uniformity, either of extent or form of organisation. Some countries have gone beyond the limits of compulsory schooling, and have established official services for all children wishing to benefit from them, while in other countries only sporadic undertakings, often due to private initiative and restricted to individual schools, are to be found. The two determining factors appear everywhere to be the financial situation of the parents and the distance between home and school. The amount of funds available, however, local conditions and customs, facilities for installation, and type of school, give rise to great variety ranging from proper canteens installed on the school premises, central kitchens, and the cafeterias found in some high schools, to a simple distribution of milk or soup.

#### ORGANISING BODIES

The practical organisation of the school canteens is in some places in the hands of official bodies (the educational authorities or the headmaster himself), while in others it is the responsibility of local charitable associations or private committees. It is often in the hands of a number of bodies working together or each responsible for a particular part of the work.

Although in many countries they are a form of social aid which comes within the orbit of government action, the government does not as a rule itself organise the services. Direct government organisation of them is found only in Basel-City (Switzerland), Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt and Salvador; in Israel and Sweden the government shares the organisation with the local authorities. In Portugal, the government itself organises the meals services only in primary schools, and in Ticino (Switzerland), only in the secondary schools.

In Austria (UNICEF canteens), the Union of South Africa and the United States, the practical organisation of the school meals services is



left to the local education authorities, although the general school meals programme is drawn up on a countrywide basis. In the latter country, the individual states are free to choose whether they shall participate or not in the "National School Lunch Program", and at the present time about half of the school meals services operate independently of the federal scheme. In the Union of South Africa, on the other hand, the "National School Feeding Scheme" (and the corresponding scheme for native schools) covers practically all enterprise of this kind.

Apart from such participation in the work of organisation, governments often direct, regulate or simply advise and encourage the setting up of aid services tending to facilitate school attendance. The organisation of school meals services may thus be dealt with in legislative measures, or in directives, instructions or recommendations (issued by the Ministry of Education or some other government body) which leave the operation of the services in the schools in the hands of local education authorities, communes, headmasters, or local committees or other bodies. Such is the position in Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Ceylon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and the United States.

In Honduras, Luxemburg, Norway, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the cantons of Bern, Neuchâtel, Zurich and (in part) Ticino in Switzerland, the necessary services are organised by the communes or local education authorities on their own initiative.

In Italy, the *Patronati scolastici*, and in Portugal, the *Modidade Portuguesa*, are responsible for school meals. Both are officially recognised bodies of public utility.

Sometimes the initiative is taken by individual headmasters. Such is the case in certain senior schools in Ceylon, in those schools in the United States not participating in the "National School Lunch Program", and in Panama and Thailand.

In several of the provinces of India, the initiative has been taken, in certain types of schools, either by the provincial governments or the schools themselves.

In Belgium, and in the grammar schools of Bulgaria and some of those of Colombia, the school meals service is organised in the form of a pupils' cooperative.

Services operate in Monaco on school premises, under private management. In Thailand, merchants come into the schools and sell food to the pupils.

In Geneva in Switzerland, each school "kitchen" operates in each locality as an independent, private association of public utility, the various "kitchen" associations being grouped in a federation. The so-called *Table des grands*, for pupils in secondary establishments, is also a private body.

In Panama and the Philippines, in addition to the school meals services established by the schools themselves or by the local education authorities, there are school canteens organised by the Red Cross and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) respectively.



Local parents', charitable and analogous associations often cooperate with the authorities in the organisation of school canteens. In Turkey, such associations are entirely responsible.

Mention should also be made of the good offices of individuals who, interested in the work of the school and the welfare of the pupils, have enabled the problem of school meals to be solved, in places where previously no service of the kind had existed. In New Zealand, for example, voluntary assistance in preparing hot meals is given in the rural districts by parents and others. The report on France shows that the school meals services are similarly highly decentralised. In the Swiss canton of Bern, in some small villages lacking installation of any kind, it is often the school caretaker or a teacher's wife who devotedly makes possible the provision of hot meals during the winter months, and similar good will on the part of teachers is found in some of the rural schools in Canada.

It is thus evident that, while in most cases school meals services are desired and encouraged by the central authorities, the practical running of them is almost invariably the responsibility of local bodies, and in this way their adaptation to local needs is ensured.

#### FINANCE

Irrespective of the way in which school meals services are organised, or of the organising body responsible for them, in practically every country covered by the present inquiry the government assists them financially. In some countries the entire costs of such services are thus covered, but usually the government contributes only a part of the sums involved, the rest being derived from other sources, official or private: communes, local education authorities, parents' associations, local public utility associations, charitable organisations, trade unions, private individuals. The question as to how much pupils are required to pay for meals is gone into at greater length in a later section of this survey; financial aid from official or private sources is necessary, even when pupils pay the full cost price of a meal. This is so, firstly because pupils make no contribution to installation and equipment expenses, and secondly because the principle that pupils shall pay for their meals is always absolutely or partially waived in the case of necessitous children.

The following table indicates the sources of funds, excluding whatever the pupils themselves may pay, applied to school meals services:

Country	Source of Funds
Argentina	Local associations, private contributions, some public funds
Australia	State education departments (New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania only)
Austria :	
Vienna	UNICEF, <i>Länder</i> , UNAC
Salzburg	UNICEF, <i>Salzburger Landeshilfe</i> , communes
Belgium	Autonomous cooperatives, government subsidies
Bolivia	Government

Country (cont.)	Source of Funds
Bulgaria	Government, people's committees, local committees
Canada :	
Alberta	Local education authorities, local societies, teachers
New Brunswick	Municipalities, local associations, local Red Cross <sup>1</sup>
Newfoundland	Provincial government
Ontario	Local education authorities
Prince Edward Island	Local societies
Quebec	Local education authorities, welfare societies <sup>2</sup>
Ceylon	Government, in some cases local bodies
Colombia	Government, provinces, communes, private contributions
Costa Rica	Government, communes, <i>Patronatos</i> , UNICEF
Czechoslovakia	Government, communes
Denmark	Government, municipalities
Dominican Republic	Government
Ecuador	Government, charitable societies, private contributions
Egypt	Government
Finland	Government, communes
France	Government, municipalities, departments, school funds, parents' associations, the public school pupils' charitable society
Honduras	Communal and district authorities, parents' associations
India	Provincial governments <sup>3</sup>
Ireland	Government, local authorities
Israel	Government, Hadassa Association, local authorities, UNICEF
Italy	Government, <i>Patronati scolastici</i> (local public utility associations)
Luxemburg	Communes
Netherlands	Communes
Norway	Communes
Panama	Government, communes, local tradespeople, parent-teacher associations, private individuals

<sup>1</sup> Intervenes only in case of necessity, services being in principle self-supporting.

<sup>2</sup> Limited to distribution of milk.

<sup>3</sup> Where services exist. The towns of Madras and Lucknow have services financed by the town corporation.



Country (cont.)	Source of Funds
Philippines	UNICEF, communes, local associations
Poland	Government, local authorities, trade unions, parents' committees
Portugal	Communes, parishes, private individuals, Mothers of National Education Society, national youth organisation
Salvador	Government
Spain	Government, communes, private associations
Sweden	Government, communes
Switzerland :	
Basel-Town	Canton
Bern	Canton, communes, private individuals
Geneva	Canton, private individuals
Neuchâtel	Canton, communes, private associations
Ticino	Canton, communes, school committees
Zurich	Canton, local education authorities
Turkey	Charitable associations
Union of South Africa	Union government, provincial governments
United Kingdom :	
England and Wales	Government
United States	Federal government, states <sup>1</sup> , school committees

Mention should be made of certain special cases. In Belgium, for example, each canteen functions as an independent, self-supporting cooperative, the government contribution consisting of equipment.

The canteens are also run as cooperatives in the grammar schools of Bulgaria, but with contributions from the government, the school, and the parents' associations.

In the lycée of Monaco, the meals service is a private undertaking. In New Zealand, government funds are forthcoming for a variety of purposes, among them being the supply of materials and equipment for the provision, where the need arises, of hot lunches and beverages.

In Geneva in Switzerland, the school "kitchens" are autonomous private bodies, financed through members' subscriptions, private donations, and cantonal subsidies.

The countries (Austria, Costa Rica, Israel, the Philippines and Poland) mentioning UNICEF aid in their replies, receive such aid in the form of foodstuffs (milk, fats, cod-liver oil), in conformity with the regulations of that organisation. From time to time the United States Department of Agriculture has foods available for purchase by schools, within the framework of its programmes for the direct distribution of farm surpluses. Contributions in kind are also made by the local authorities in Poland, and occasionally by private individuals in Geneva in Switzerland.

<sup>1</sup> Those participating in the "National Lunch Program".



Mention should also be made of the school meals services run as cafeterias or self-service restaurants in some secondary establishments. Pupils pay the cost of the food they consume, and as this kind of service is generally organised on the initiative of the schools themselves, it is to be presumed that the schools meet the installation and equipment expenses.

So far as the total sums applied to school meals services are concerned, the figures supplied refer to such widely differing circumstances that they offer no reliable basis for comparison. They refer in several countries, for example, to a service limited to the distribution of milk, and in others to one covering the preparation of complete meals, necessitating paid staff, costly installations, equipment, premises and even special buildings. The figures may refer in one country to a service which is limited to only one type of school, in another to a service restricted to certain areas or certain categories of pupils, and in yet another to a service covering the whole school population. For comparisons to be possible, it would be necessary to relate the total sums spent on meals services with the number of recipients, but very few of the national reports are sufficiently detailed for this to be done. The central authorities themselves, moreover, often find it difficult to determine such sums, except in the rare cases where the central authority is itself responsible for the whole of the expenditure on meals services.

The following figures are therefore quoted for their documentary interest only, and are grouped according to the kind of expenditure to which they refer.

In Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Egypt, the costs of the school meals services are borne entirely by the government, and amount to 4,000,000 bolivianos, 132,775 pesos and £E.3,500,000 respectively per annum.

In the United Kingdom (England and Wales), such costs, amounting to £25,700,000 in 1949-1950, are also borne entirely by the government, if the small amount paid by the children for meals be excluded. A further sum of £8,250,000 is spent on the free distribution of milk.

In Salvador and Basel-Town in Switzerland, the costs of the school meals services, after due allowance has been made for payments from the children, are borne by the government, and amount to 100,000 colons (1949) and 30,000 Swiss francs a year respectively.

In the United States, the federal government apportions \$75,000,000 a year among the states participating in the "National Lunch Program", and the states are required to contribute as much as they receive in this way. In the Union of South Africa, the "National School Feeding Scheme" costs £1,170,485 per annum.

In Bulgaria, the dining-rooms of the primary schools cost 1,200 million levas a year.

The school meals services cost annually 800,000 pesos in Colombia, 10,000,000 pesetas in Spain, £1,155,000 (1948-1949) in Israel, 10,000,000 escudos in Portugal, and 1,220,000 sucres in Ecuador. Total costs in Finland were 422,105,000 marks in 1947, and have now increased by 30%.

Annual grants by the government to the communes and other local bodies amount to 1,000,000 crowns in Denmark, 9,000,000 rupees in Ceylon, 150,000,000 liras (1949-1950) in Italy, 20,000 balboas in Panama, 17,000,000 crowns in Sweden, and 60,000 Swiss francs in Bern in Switzerland.



In France, in Paris alone, the school meals services cost 380,000,000 francs in 1948. Oslo in Norway spent 2,508,000 crowns on such services in 1949-1950, and Prague in Czechoslovakia 20,000,000 crowns in 1949, and Salzburg in Austria 850,000 schillings in 1948.

The relative values of such amounts may be determined with the help of the table given in the appendix, of average exchange rates as on 16th December, 1950.

### INSTALLATION

The way in which school meals services are installed and equipped presents no uniform picture, depending as it does on the amount of funds available and local conditions. In some of the replies, moreover, no details are given on this point, in which case it is to be presumed that the problem is one which has not been solved by the central authorities, and that the persons directly responsible for the services have been left to take such steps as local conditions demand and render possible.

In this connection, the reply from the United Kingdom states that only the relatively new schools have kitchens and dining-rooms as an integral part of their premises, and that other schools have only *ad hoc* arrangements. Model plans enclosed with this reply show how premises for school meals should now be included in all school building projects.

It is obvious that the problem of providing meals in schools possessing no special installation for the purpose, is not solved without difficulty.

In most of the countries giving information on this point, the canteens are installed in the schools themselves, but in some cases it is not stated whether there is special installation for the purpose or not.

Various solutions are adopted when it is not possible to instal the canteens in the schools themselves. In Bulgaria, Finland, France, and the rural areas of Ecuador, for example, suitable premises are found near the schools. In some few exceptional cases in Neuchâtel (Switzerland), pupils have their meals in private or boarding houses, and in some villages in the canton of Bern, where suitable premises are lacking, meals are prepared by the school caretaker or a teacher's wife. In the United Kingdom (England and Wales), as noted above, accommodation for school services now forms an integral part of all school building projects; the problems of the period of transition have been solved in some cases by the erection of prefabricated hutment dining-rooms. In many countries, above all in the villages, the classroom is made to serve as dining-room.

Central kitchens are used in Oslo (Norway), in Vienna (Austria), in the towns of the Netherlands, and as a temporary measure in some cases in the United Kingdom. From these kitchens food is transported at meal times to the various schools.

In the towns in Ecuador, the canteens are installed in schools sufficiently central to be able to serve other schools, pending the time when each school has its own canteen.

Basel-Town (Switzerland) has solved the problem of installation in an unusual way, which adequately meets the needs of a relatively small number of pupils. The education authorities have there made an arrangement for pupils to have their meals at a non-alcoholic restaurant at specially

reduced prices. The same system was recently introduced in Geneva for secondary school pupils.

In Colombia, the school meals services are required to be run in connection with the school farms; pupils work on these farms, and the produce is used in the school kitchens installed, together with dining-rooms and larders, in the schools themselves or in attached buildings.

In Israel, Panama, and in some cases in New Brunswick (Canada), the domestic science classes possess the requisite equipment, and the school meals services are run as part of the activities of these classes. This is a system which might well prove of value elsewhere.

Large-scale plans to solve the problem of installation, like those noted above in Ecuador and the United Kingdom, are also to be found in Portugal. Under the terms of the plan for the nationwide construction of primary schools, 17,000,000 escudos were allocated for the installation of school canteens wherever their operation and maintenance can be guaranteed by welfare societies.

Satisfactory running of school meals services obviously depends on the provision of adequate accommodation and equipment. Many of the replies show what can be achieved in this respect in a period of transition.

### CONTROL

Three forms of control are discernable in the replies which give details in this connection of their school meals services.

The first is a form of control which is found in all such replies, concerning the general operation of the services, and for which an education authority of some kind is always responsible, whether a central body acting through its inspectors, a local authority, or just simply the headmasters.

Then there is the special form of control concerned with the hygiene of the services. This form is found, for example, in Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, and Transvaal (Union of South Africa), and is exercised by the school doctors and medical services. It should be emphasised, however, that such control is by no means the only way in which concern for the hygiene of school meals services is manifested; it is equally in evidence, as is made clear in a later section of this survey, in the regulations and suggestions drawn up by legislative or organising bodies on the choice of food and the composition of meals.

The third form of control concerns the use made of the funds allocated to school meals services. Details of this type of control are given in the replies from Belgium, Ceylon, Neuchâtel (Switzerland), the Union of South Africa, and the United Kingdom (England and Wales). In Geneva (Switzerland), where each school "kitchen" forms an independent body, yearly statements of account are examined by the cantonal authorities with a view to the due apportioning of subsidies.

In France, Panama and Poland, parents are represented on the committees responsible for controlling the operation of the services. Control is exercised in each commune in Colombia by a committee composed of a teacher, a representative of the parents, the local priest, and possibly a doctor.



## RECIPIENTS

For the purposes of the present inquiry, data concerning the numbers of children who benefit from school meals are of the greatest importance and best reveal the real extent of the canteen services. Such data, however, are difficult to obtain. This is due to a fact of which due account must be taken throughout the present general survey, namely, that when a service is established independently, in accordance with local needs and on the initiative of private individuals or a local committee, there is more often than not no statistical record of its activities. Such is the position, for example, in Australia, Norway (where each commune is free to decide whether a service is needed, and for which the data given refer to Oslo only), New Zealand (where each school committee itself decides whether or not to apply part of its government grants to providing meals), and the United States (here about half the schools organise school meals independently of the "National School Lunch Program"). Numerous secondary and higher establishments, moreover, themselves set up a service for the benefit of their pupils, which is quite outside the official framework and which generally takes the form of a cafeteria where food may be purchased.

The following discussion is given, then, with the reservation that the relevant data for any given country do not necessarily cover all that is being accomplished.

### LEVELS AT WHICH SERVICES EXIST

One of the most important objects of school meals services being to facilitate compliance with the obligation to attend school, legislators and organisers have naturally concentrated their efforts on primary schools, and such schools therefore appear more frequently than other types of school in the following table.

Country	Levels at which Meals Services exist
Afghanistan	Nursery-infant (Kabul)
Austria :	
Vienna	Nursery-infant, primary, intermediate, vocational, apprenticeship
Salzburg	Primary, senior primary, intermediate
Belgium	Intermediate
Bolivia	Nursery-infant, primary and occasionally secondary
Bulgaria	Primary, secondary (grammar schools)
Ceylon	Infant, primary, secondary (1st class)
Colombia	Primary
Costa Rica	Nursery-infant, primary, in some cases secondary
Czechoslovakia	All (particularly nursery-infant)
Denmark	Primary, middle, <i>real</i> classes

Country (cont.)	Levels at which Meals Services exist
Dominican Republic	Primary
Egypt	All
Ecuador	Nursery-infant, primary
Finland	Primary, in some cases secondary
France	Nursery-infant, primary, continuation, in some cases secondary
Honduras	Primary (in some cases)
India :	
West Bengal	High schools
Orissa	High schools
Ireland	Primary
Israel	Nursery-infant, primary
Italy	Nursery-infant, primary
Monaco	Primary, secondary
Netherlands	Primary, secondary
Norway (Oslo)	Primary, continuation
Panama	Nursery-infant, primary, in some cases secondary
Philippines	Primary, intermediate, secondary
Poland	Nursery-infant, primary, secondary
Portugal	Primary, secondary
Salvador	Primary, in some cases
Spain	Nursery-infant, primary
Sweden	Primary, in some cases secondary and higher
Switzerland :	
Basel-Town	Primary, secondary
Bern	Primary
Geneva	Primary, secondary
Neuchâtel	Primary
Ticino	Nursery-infant, primary, vocational classes, secondary (lycée only)
Zurich	Primary, secondary (lower classes)
Thailand	Nursery-infant
Turkey	Primary, secondary
Union of South Africa	Primary
United Kingdom :	
England and Wales	Primary, secondary

In reading the above table it should be borne in mind that mention of any given level of education does not imply that a meals service operates in all schools at that level; in many countries the meals services are by no means universal, especially at secondary level.



Certain meals services are mentioned in the replies from Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and India (Assam, United Provinces and Himachal Pradesh), but the levels at which these services are found is not given.

In several countries, one deciding factor in the installation of school meals services is type of school, geographical situation, or age of pupils. Thus in Australia, India (Bombay, and Central Provinces and Berar) and New Zealand, for example, meals are provided in certain special schools for natives; in India (Madras), in the "Labour Schools"; in Canada, in the rural schools; and in Luxemburg, in schools in the mining area. In the United States, all schoolchildren between five and seventeen years of age may participate in the "National School Lunch Program", and in Zurich (Switzerland), the meals services are for children within the age limits of the eight or nine years of compulsory schooling.

In the native schools of the Union of South Africa, school meals are available for all children between six and fourteen years of age.

#### NUMBERS OF RECIPIENTS

In order to evaluate the numerical data given in thirty of the replies to the present inquiry, it must be remembered that such data refer to widely differing circumstances: the educational territory they cover varies in extent from one country to another, a greater or a lesser number of pupils participate in the meals services, and for some schools no statistics may be available.

Some of the replies give the percentage of pupils benefiting from meals services. It amounts to 10% in Australia, 75% (20% in the towns) in Belgium, 12% in Bolivia, 4% (Alberta) and 15% (Ontario) in Canada, 30% in Czechoslovakia, 50% in Denmark, 22% in France, 20% in Luxemburg, 5% in Monaco, 15% in Portugal, 52% (mid-day meal) and 89% (milk) in the United Kingdom (June, 1949), and 22% ("National School Lunch Program") in the United States. In some cases it is not clear whether such percentages are based on the total school population of all schools or of the level(s) of education with meals services.

Other replies give more precise figures. In Vienna (Austria), school meals are served to 60,000 children (40% of the school population) and in Salzburg to 7,000 children (17.5%). In Bulgaria, 120,320 children (14% of the primary school population) and 5,878 children (5% of the grammar school population) receive (free) meals. In Colombia, school meals are served to approximately 10% of the total primary school population. In Geneva (Switzerland), 400 children out of a total primary school population of 12,600 receive meals, and in Norway 10% of such population. In Egypt, 902,000 children (81% of the total school population of the country) coming from all levels of education, benefited from meals in 1947-1948, and 1,051,000 children in 1949-1950.

In Ceylon, 694,000 children out of a total of 1,005,000 benefit from school meals services, 16,500 out of 103,000 (1949) in Costa Rica, 72,000 out of 354,000 in Ireland, 30,300 out of 111,000 (1948-1949) in Israel, 250,000 out of 715,000 (100% in the north of the country) in Sweden, 505,000 out of 688,200 (and 500,000 out of 750,000 in the native schools) in the Union of South Africa.

In the province of New Brunswick (Canada), 397 schools out of 1612 have meals services, benefiting 7,000 children. In Prince Edward Island (Canada), 10% of the schools have services, and 80% of the children benefit from them.

Other replies give the numbers of recipients of school meals without reference to the total number of children. There are roughly 15,000 such recipients in the Dominican Republic, 80,000 in Spain, 2,500 in Salvador, and 3,600 in Ticino (Switzerland). In Basel-Town (Switzerland), 85 children received schools meals in 1948 and approximately 10,000 benefited from the distribution of milk.

In India, the number of recipients is 2,000 in Assam, 6,600 in West Bengal, 850 in the Central Provinces and Berar, 91,000 in Madras, and 170 in Himachal Pradesh (2 schools); in the United Provinces 269 schools have a school meals service.

The percentage of recipients is generally related to the categories of pupils for which services are provided, and it will therefore be of value to examine these figures in the light of the information given in the following section.

#### CATEGORIES OF PUPILS SERVED

The cafeterias installed, as has been seen, in certain secondary and higher schools, and other services run as independent undertakings (in, for example, Belgium and Monaco), are by their nature open to all pupils who wish to use them and can pay for what they consume. Such types of service enable pupils to obtain meals at a convenient place and at a reasonable price, but cannot be considered as an outstanding form of social aid to schoolchildren. The emphasis in the present study should in this respect be given rather to the school meals services proper.

The relatively few countries with schools meals services open without distinction to all pupils who wish to use them, are Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Honduras (wherever services exist), Norway (Oslo), the Philippines, the Union of South Africa and the United States. In the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and Sweden, the school meals services are also open in principle to all children; discrimination is made in practice only when circumstances make it impossible to satisfy the full demand, and is regarded as a provisional measure, both these countries intending to universalise their services in the near future.

In most of the countries, school meals services are organised for one or more particular categories of pupils, the choice being generally made on the basis of two main factors: distance of the home from the school, and the material conditions of the parents. Such is the case in Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria ("dining-rooms" only), Ceylon, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland (Basel-Town, Bern, Geneva, Neuchâtel, Zurich) and Turkey. In France and Ireland, however, the conditions of admission are such that practically all children who so wish can take their meal at school.

In addition to the "dining-rooms" for necessitous children, "buffets" exist in Bulgaria where primary school children with the means to do so may obtain breakfast at a low price, and cooperative canteens are open to all grammar school pupils.



Only the factor of distance is operative in Canada, where meals services are found only in the rural schools, and in Ticino (Switzerland).

School meals services in the Netherlands are organised for children who would otherwise find difficulty in attending school.

Due account is taken of the fact that the mother goes out to work, for example in Israel, Panama, the United Kingdom (England and Wales), and Geneva (Switzerland).

Children are given school meals or regularly provided with milk, for reasons of health, in Austria, Canada (Alberta and Ontario), Ecuador, Israel, Luxemburg, the Philippines (in the UNICEF canteens) and Salvador.

#### PAYMENT FOR MEALS

School meals are provided quite free for all categories of school-children in Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Norway (Oslo) and the Union of South Africa. Conditions will shortly be similar in the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and Sweden, which two countries, as was seen above, propose to universalise their services in the near future. In Honduras a school meals service exists so far only in some primary schools, but the same principle of free meals for all children has been accepted. In Costa Rica, school meals are in principle free, but many parents voluntarily make small contributions; in Spain, children are asked to pay the cost price of meals only in exceptional cases. In Austria, children are asked to pay a nominal sum for school meals, necessitous children being exempted.

Sometimes school meals are available and free only for the pupils of given categories of school. In Canada (Alberta and Ontario), free services are found only in the rural schools; in India, free meals are provided for primary school children belonging to aboriginal and hill tribes (Bombay Province, and the Mandla District of the Central Provinces and Berar), and for children attending "Labour Schools" (Madras).

In some countries, school meals are free for all children admitted to the canteens, admission being restricted, however, to certain categories of children (necessitous children, delicate children, children living some distance from the school, etc.). Such is the position in Bolivia, Ceylon, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Luxemburg (schools in the mining area), the Netherlands, the Philippines (UNICEF services) and Turkey.

Elsewhere school meals are generally free for children coming from families of limited means, while other children with the means to do so are required to pay for them, but usually only a very small price. In order to avoid any suggestion of humiliating charity, in Israel even necessitous children have to pay a small amount, which is, however, no more than a token. The same concern not to hurt children's susceptibilities is expressed in the reply from Colombia, where pupils make payment of a kind by taking part in farm work, and in that from Geneva (Switzerland), where all children are asked to pay at least a small sum, but where in practice 75% of the meals are provided free. The reply from the Union of South Africa states that while school meals are free, they are in no way to be regarded as "charitable".

Children pay for meals in the cafeterias of certain secondary and higher schools, and in the independent undertakings of Belgium and Monaco, mentioned above, and also in the "buffets" of the Bulgarian primary schools, and in some schools in India and in the Philippines (the UNICEF canteens excepted). In Thailand, school meals services exist only in the kindergartens, parents bearing the entire cost; in other types of school, certain private individuals are authorised to sell food to those pupils who wish to buy.

In addition to meals many schools organise the distribution of milk. This distribution is entirely free in Argentina, Australia (New South Wales and South Australia), Canada (New Brunswick and Newfoundland), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway (continuation classes), and the United Kingdom (England and Wales).

### MEALS SERVED

Each country in the world has its own firmly established food traditions and customs, which naturally exert an influence on the make-up of school meals, and which are the result of given types of agriculture and geographical conditions. There is in consequence great diversity in the sample menus of the school meals of the countries replying to this inquiry. The various national dishes, moreover, naturally appear in these menus, such as curry soup in Ceylon, *knedlik* (dumplings) in Czechoslovakia, pepper soup and *kora* (sugar and coconut or groundnuts) in India, various kinds of pudding in the United Kingdom, *tortilla* (cake of maize flour, replacing bread) in Salvador, and stew *à la Madrilène* and *paella* in Spain. The menus cited in the national reports following this general survey clearly show immense variety.

Many countries organise the distribution of milk or tonics (generally cod-liver oil) either in some individual schools, or (as in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) throughout the country. The school meal proper, however, is the mid-day one, except in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ireland, Norway, the Union of South Africa (in these four countries a meal is served in the course of the morning), and Luxemburg (breakfast during the morning break). In a number of nursery-infant schools in Poland, the children receive two or even three free meals a day.

### REGULATIONS ON COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL MEALS

In some countries the qualitative and quantitative composition of school meals conforms to detailed instructions or suggestions issued by the central or local education authorities. In Egypt, for example, the nutritional value of school meals, as expressed in calorific (500-1210) and animal protein content, is prescribed for each age-group; in the United States, a full meal is suggested, for schools with the necessary means of preparing it, consisting of half-a-pint of milk, two ounces of



a food rich in protein (meat, fish, etc.), three-quarters of a cupful of vegetables or fruits, two teaspoonfuls of butter or margarine, and wholemeal bread; in the Netherlands, meat, fat and vegetables are to be used in such proportions that one kilogram of food contains from 900 to 1100 calories. Detailed instructions are also issued in Bolivia, by the provincial departments of education in the Union of South Africa, and in the United Kingdom (England and Wales), where a Board of Education circular suggests that the school meal should contain 1,000 calories, 20-25 grams of protein, and 30 grams of fat.

The instructions issued by the relevant authorities in other countries are less detailed, but also tend to stipulate the use of sufficient quantities of the elements deemed necessary for a balanced diet. In Finland, for example, a school meal contains 344-484 calories, and an average of 434 in Vienna (Austria); in Israel, it should provide not less than 30% of the food a child needs during the day, and ensure that he gets all the elements necessary for a balanced diet; in Sweden, it is expected to contain half a child's daily requirement of albumin, mineral salts and vitamins and one-third of his daily calorific needs.

The following may be cited as examples of directives of a more general kind: taking account of climatic conditions, and of the children's living conditions and state of nutrition (Ecuador); giving children well balanced food, suited to their age and as varied as possible (France); giving priority to protective foods, milk in particular, and serving them attractively (Union of South Africa).

Children in Canada as a rule bring their lunch to school, and in consequence the school meals service generally consists merely of reheating food or providing a hot supplement, and the food suggestions issued by the provincial education authorities are mainly addressed to parents. Such suggestions thus take the form of pamphlets giving mothers general information about food values, aiming at creating good food habits in the homes, and giving advice on the best way of packing a child's lunch box.

Sweets may not form part of school meals in Belgium, and their use is discouraged in the Union of South Africa.

### THE OSLO BREAKFAST

The above clearly shows concern, on the part of the bodies responsible for school meals services, to conform to modern principles of nutrition. As in Ecuador and the Union of South Africa, it is sometimes a doctor who advises on the composition of school meals, while in other countries, as was indicated in a preceding section on control, the services are carefully supervised from a medical point of view. All these endeavours to protect children through a balanced diet from the deficiencies that might seriously harm them in later life, have found their highest expression, thanks to the work of the Norwegian Carl Schiötz, in the "Oslo Breakfast".

The following passages on the composition and principles of the "Oslo Breakfast" are taken from a work of Dr. Jean Sutter<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> *La Protection alimentaire des écoliers*. Paris, Librairie de Médecis, 1945. Pp. 69-70.

"An inquiry conducted in two primary schools, chosen because the children in the first had the best conditions for physical development, while such conditions in the other were less good, showed that in the two schools 65% and 74% respectively of the meal taken at school were doubled by a similar meal taken at home. In the long run two more or less identical hot meals of this kind will ruin a child's health. Schiötz also learned from the inquiry that 23% and 45% respectively of the children in the two schools did not get milk. They rarely had fruit or vegetables either. A large number of the children were in consequence suffering from a lack of vitamins. On the basis of his investigations, Schiötz proposed replacing the school meal with a breakfast based on a rational formula... His calculations led him to believe that one-third of the daily need for energy foods would suffice adequately to protect a child. The usual school meal consists of well cooked liquids containing very few vitamins; it is essential, however, at all seasons of the year to give children food rich in vitamins of all kinds."

"Such a meal should give exercise to the children's jaws and teeth, exercise which is all too frequently lacking."

"Taking into account all previous findings on the subject, Schiötz composed the breakfast in the following way:

"400-500 cc. fresh milk, unboiled, unpasteurised; it may be noted in passing that this proviso may be obeyed without danger in Norway, where the percentage of tubercular cows is 0.18, the lowest in the world;

"Two biscuits of 20 grams each, made of wholegrain wheat flour; 20 grams margarine and 20 grams cooked goat's cheese; slices of wholegrain rye bread (50 grams), two forming a sandwich of 100 grams with 20 grams of margarine; according to age and appetite, the children eat one or two sandwiches of rye bread.

"The meal ends with a raw carrot (100 grams), half an apple (50 grams), half an orange (70 grams without peel) or half a banana (40 grams)."

Among the countries covered by the present inquiry, Australia, Egypt, Norway and Sweden have adopted the "Oslo Breakfast". It is evident, however, that other countries are in agreement with Schiötz's principles, including in school meals as they do, some of the items he proposes, such as milk and an apple or carrot at each meal (Denmark), milk, wholemeal bread and fruits (United States), milk, wholemeal bread and raw vegetables (Union of South Africa), and milk and raw vegetables (Poland).

The reply from Norway states that the "Oslo Breakfast" is the children's first meal of the day, and that it is eaten under the supervision of a teacher three-quarters of an hour before lessons begin, so that about a quarter of an hour is left as a break after it.

#### EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF SCHOOL MEALS

It has been seen above that the common purpose of school meals services is to compensate for quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in children's diet. Many replies, however, make mention of certain educational



aims which the services should be made to serve, and in this connection some ideas of particular interest are expressed.

In Colombia, for example, children work on farms, from which part of the food for their school canteen comes, so that they may become familiar with agricultural practice and at the same time develop a sense of comradeship and community. Their participation in the farm work also serves as a kind of moral payment to the community for the free meals they receive.

In the United States, the school lunch is more and more being recognised as an activity through which children can learn much concerning the value, selection and preparation of foods, and thus as a means to their education as consumers. The school meal-time is also expected to serve as an opportunity for learning table manners; it is regarded in this way, too, in Ecuador and the United Kingdom (England and Wales).

In some schools in Israel, meals form part of lessons in the curriculum, and all pupils are then expected to take part in them. Similar conditions are found wherever pupils in domestic science classes are responsible for preparing and serving school meals.

The following passage, addressed to teachers, occurs in a pamphlet published by the Department of Education of Quebec (Canada) "They (the children) should feel at home, and not be tempted to race through their food in order to vacate their place and run outside to play. Lunch at school should not be a mere snack, but a proper meal, as at home, eaten slowly in a relaxed, peaceful atmosphere. Happiness whets the appetite and assists digestion. Endeavour to guide the conversation and prevent discussions or quarrels. Give unobtrusive advice on health, good behaviour and table manners, and sociability."

Details of this kind concerning the educational aims of school meals services, more or less explicitly expressed, form the most interesting part of the generally very summary information given in the replies, about the children's supervision during meals, and their part in preparing and serving them.

Many replies refer directly or indirectly to the need to inculcate new habits with regard to food, and to correct what is out-of-date in traditional customs. An educational purpose is thus implied, which extends beyond the school to the family and the public at large.

This wider endeavour takes the form in Canada and the United States of propaganda by means of folders and pamphlets, and in a number of other countries, of inculcating good food habits from the time children start school. In Poland, it is worth noting in this connection, conferences and exhibitions are organised by the education authorities, in order to demonstrate how children may be economically and rationally fed (and clothed).

The interesting fact emerges that in many countries the school meal is no longer simply a means of social aid, but has grown into a "lesson" on food hygiene and balance, and an occasion for outstandingly educational social contacts

## Clothing

The replies from the various Ministries of Education give considerably less space to the provision of clothing than to the school meals services.

One reason for this is because the provision of clothing in many countries is not organised specially for schoolchildren, but forms part of the official social services or of the activities of charitable associations, catering for children and necessitous adults alike, or because special clothing facilities are rendered superfluous by the fact that parents receive family allowances which they are required to spend on their children's needs, including clothing. In both such cases, then, the provision of clothing is not made through the school. This is the position in Austria (Vienna), Canada, Ireland, Israel, Luxemburg, New Zealand, the Philippines and the Union of South Africa, and these countries in consequence do not appear in this part of the general survey.

Another reason for the lack of space given to clothing facilities is the relatively small number of children for which they are organised.

Among the countries replying to this inquiry, twenty-five have more or less well developed clothing facilities operating through the intermediary of the school. The details given, however, are in many cases few and of a very general character. The reply from Afghanistan, for example, merely states that school uniforms are distributed from time to time, and the one from Thailand that in times of crisis the government helps to get low-priced clothing for children. In Egypt, clothing for children is provided at government expense only in the homes and institutions coming under the Ministry of Social Affairs. Information of this kind is of interest, but not sufficiently detailed for inclusion in this general survey.

### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Wherever they exist, clothing facilities for schoolchildren depend almost without exception on some official body. This body is the commune or some official communal organisation, in Bulgaria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland (Bern). It is the local education authority in the United Kingdom (England and Wales) and Switzerland (Zurich). It is the central government (in the form of the Ministry of Education or Social Assistance) in Bolivia, Ceylon, the Dominican Republic, Persia<sup>1</sup>, Poland and Switzerland (Basel-Town, Geneva and Neuchâtel).

Clothing facilities for schoolchildren are left in private hands in Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Panama and Turkey. In two of these countries, Belgium and Panama, however, official bodies intervene to

<sup>1</sup> Scholarship holders only; other children receive clothing from the "Lion and Red Sun Organisation".



some extent; in the former in order to ensure equitable distribution, and in the latter, through the Ministry of Education, with the aim of officially controlling a service whose organisation and financing through collections has hitherto been left to teachers.

In France, the organisation of clothing facilities, as of school meals, is highly decentralised. It is sometimes the responsibility of official bodies, sometimes of private associations, sometimes of both working in collaboration.

So far as the financing of clothing services is concerned, such replies as have been received on this point do not always offer an adequate basis for comparison. It may be said, however, that as a general rule clothing facilities are financed by the bodies responsible for their organisation. This is explicitly stated in many of the replies, and more or less implied in others.

While not directly engaged in organising clothing facilities, the government in some countries helps in financing them through subsidies. In Finland, for example, the government pays two-thirds of the expenses of such facilities, incurred by the communes. In Switzerland, the cantonal authorities of Bern contribute a fixed annual sum for clothing provision, and those of Zurich grant a similar sum to the school authorities. In Czechoslovakia, the Ministry of Social Assistance meets 35% of the total costs of clothing facilities. The local education authorities in the United Kingdom (England and Wales) are empowered to devote a part of their annual grants from the Ministry of Education to the provision of clothing. In Spain, the government and the communes grant a total of 4,000,000 pesetas a year.

Funds for clothing facilities from central or local authorities often go hand-in-hand, even in countries with an officially organised service, with contributions from charitable associations, local committees, parents' associations and private individuals. Such is the case, for example, in Colombia, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland (Basel-Town and Zurich).

Very little information is available with regard to the total annual costs of clothing facilities. It may be stated, however, that such facilities absorb considerably smaller amounts than the school meals services, given the relatively smaller number of children for which they cater.

The following are examples of such costs, taken from the replies: 600,000 bolivianos are spent each year on clothing facilities for necessitous children in Bolivia, between 150,000 and 180,000 rupees in Ceylon, and 23,000 Swiss francs (Geneva) and 70,000 Swiss francs (Zurich) in Switzerland. In Bern (Switzerland), the cantonal authorities make grants to the communes amounting to 20,000 Swiss francs a year. Such facilities cost 50,348,630 marks in 1947 in Finland, and 21,000 Swiss francs in 1947-1948 in Switzerland (Neuchâtel). Expenditure on them may not exceed 40 florins per recipient per annum in the Netherlands. The provision of clothing was costing 38 crowns per recipient per annum in 1945 in Sweden, a figure which has considerably diminished since the introduction of family allowances in 1948.

The total costs of clothing facilities in any given country, like those of meals services, are not easily estimated when they are not met entirely by the central authorities.

## RECIPIENTS

It is abundantly clear from the replies on clothing facilities that the number of children who benefit from them, although even an approximate estimate of it is rarely given, is relatively small compared with that of children covered by school meals services. As has been seen, the latter services are available to a fairly large proportion of schoolchildren, even in some cases to all pupils at a given educational level. In all the countries sending replies in regard to the provision of clothing, however, such provision is strictly limited to children coming from families of modest means.

It is worth noting in passing that in the United Kingdom (England and Wales), in accordance with official regulations, local education authorities are authorised to require parents to pay for provided clothing becoming the pupils' property, when financial hardship is not so caused.

Lack of means, it would thus appear, is almost without exception the main condition of eligibility to benefit from clothing facilities, other conditions being good conduct (Colombia, and Geneva in Switzerland), and marks above the average in the case of scholarship holders (Persia).

The following few countries give the percentage of schoolchildren benefiting from clothing facilities: 5-10% in Belgium, 4% in Ceylon, 3-5% in Switzerland (Neuchâtel), 15% in Sweden in 1945 (since when, considerably less), in France, 9% in the nursery-infant and primary schools of Paris, 10% in the suburbs of Paris, 2-25% in the nursery-infant and primary schools in and around Lyons, 20% in the nursery infant schools of the Manche, 15-18% in Rennes, 20% in Nancy, 10% in Grenoble, 60% in Vienne, 30% in Toulouse, and 10% in Algiers. In Czechoslovakia, 10,000 schoolchildren benefited from the provision of clothing in 1948.

The reply from Switzerland (Geneva) states pertinently that the number of children assisted through clothing aid varies according to general economic conditions, and gives the following figures: 412 children out of 13,724 in 1944, 335 out of 12,366 in 1945, 276 out of 12,411 in 1946, 248 out of 13,861 in 1947, and 221 out of 14,697 in 1948.

Clothing facilities exist mainly for schoolchildren at nursery-infant and primary levels.

The brevity of the majority of replies concerning clothing facilities renders it impossible to make any general statements with regard to the procedures for distribution. It is worthy of note that the replies from Belgium, Finland, and Switzerland (Neuchâtel) mention a desire to avoid hurting the susceptibilities of recipients, by making preliminary inquiries as to the merits of requests for help as discreetly as possible, or by choosing clothing similar to that usually worn by the other children.

The principal articles of clothing distributed include underclothes (shirts, pants, petticoats, etc.), clothes (dresses, suits, pullovers, etc.), socks or stockings, and footwear. Some countries also distribute jackets, overcoats and raincoats. Mention is made in the replies from Afghanistan, Bolivia and the United Kingdom (England and Wales) of the provision of uniforms. In Switzerland (Bern), pupils sometimes receive cloth and knitting wool.



\* \* \*

The purpose of this general summary has been to give a general picture of the problems that arise in connection with the organisation and development of nutritional and clothing aid to schoolchildren.

A great deal has been accomplished, as has been seen, in a number of countries, but it is clearly evident that much still remains to be done in these two fields.

Education for all is not ensured simply by the opening of new schools. It is also essential to overcome all material obstacles to a child's attendance at school, whatever his social condition ; unless this is done, his right to education may never be realised in practice.

## AFGHANISTAN

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

In Afghan schools lessons are given only during the morning, and the distance between school and home never exceeds three kilometres. The need for a school meals service does not arise.

Free milk and sweetmeats are distributed during the course of the day at the nursery school in Kabul.

The Ministry of Education assists gifted pupils of limited means by granting them a certain sum of money per month.

### CLOTHING

In some schools, free school uniforms are distributed from time to time.

## ARGENTINA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

In recent years social aid to schoolchildren has been undertaken on a vast scale in Argentina. In addition to the school medical and other services, it includes that of the *copa de leche* (glass of milk), operating on the basis of contributions from local associations of persons interested in education and pupils' welfare. Necessitous children get some assistance from the same source. At times when these associations have insufficient funds, they receive grants from the public education budget.



## AUSTRALIA

From the reply sent by the Commonwealth Office of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The Australian educational authorities have not so far considered special provision for feeding schoolchildren to be necessary. In order to assist parents to provide a properly balanced mid-day meal, however, they encourage the provision of canteens by parents' associations in cooperation with the school staff. Where possible the education departments make accommodation available for such canteens, which may thus be found in all types of schools, and which do not come under the direct control of the educational authorities.

Free distribution of milk is organised in South Australia and New South Wales, the latter state having spent £4,250 on this service in 1948-1949. Apples are distributed in Tasmania. Further provision is made in certain schools, as for example those for handicapped children and for aborigines.

#### RECIPIENTS

Hardly 10% of schoolchildren partake in these canteen facilities. The charge made varies between 4d. and 1s.4d., exceptions being made, however, in the case of necessitous children.

#### MEALS SERVED

Meals provided are usually of the "Oslo Breakfast" type <sup>1</sup>.

### CLOTHING

No special provision of clothes through the schools has been deemed necessary in Australia, other than of sports clothes for which the children pay themselves.

<sup>1</sup> For ingredients, see General Survey, p. 24.

## AUSTRIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

General instructions are given to the authorities of the various *Länder* of Austria in a circular (No. 21.7909/49 of 5th July, 1949) from the Federal Ministry of Food (*Bundesministerium für Volksernährung*), on the organisation and operation of school meals services benefiting from food gifts from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). It will be recalled that the latter organisation places such gifts at the disposal of war-devastated countries in order that children may receive supplementary rations, on condition that the receiving country endeavours itself to match the gifts with a contribution in kind or in services of equal value.

While carrying out the instructions from the federal government, each *Land* itself organises and administers the service according to local conditions. The information given below concerns the *Länder* of Vienna and Salzburg.

### Vienna

#### SCHOOL MEALS

##### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

A school meals service was organised in the *Land* of Vienna in 1945, thanks to the combined efforts of the Federal Ministry of Food (*Bundesministerium für Volksernährung*), the education committee of Vienna (*Wiener Stadtschulrat*), and the youth office of Vienna (*Jugendamt der Stadt Wien*).

The costs of the service are met through subsidies from the United Nations Appeal for Children, and contributions from the *Land* of Vienna and the pupils.

Meals are prepared in a central kitchen and then distributed to the various schools and kindergartens.

The service is controlled by the bodies who organise it, and by UNICEF. In the last resort responsibility for the operation of the service falls on the Federal Ministry of Social Services (*Bundesministerium für Soziale Verwaltung*).

##### RECIPIENTS

In the year 1948-1949, an average of 60,000 children a day benefited from the school meals service, representing some 40% of the total number of children. The service operates in kindergartens, in compulsory, inter-



mediate and vocational schools, and in apprenticeship classes. It is mainly intended for children from families of modest means and for children in delicate health.

Children are asked to pay the nominal sum of 2.10 schillings a week, necessitous children being exempted.

### MEALS SERVED

At the present time, only a small mid-day meal is served.

The following menus were for the week 29th August—3rd September, 1949:

- 29th August: macaroni with meat (418 calories);
- 30 August: milk cocoa and a milk bread roll (356 calories);
- 31st August: carrots with meat, peas and potatoes (198 calories);
- 1st September: milk rice, cream cheese tart (*Topfsenfleck*) (612 calories);
- 2nd September: milk cocoa, jam pancake (444 calories);
- 3rd September: baked beans, bread, cream cheese (*Topfsenkäs*) (579 calories).

Paid female staff are responsible for the distribution. Children are supervised during meals by the teachers. Children help in keeping order, checking attendances, etc.

### CLOTHING

Clothing is distributed by the youth office of Vienna and the social assistance centres.

## Salzburg

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

A school meals service has been organised in Salzburg by the authority of the *Land* of Salzburg in collaboration with the communal and district authorities.

The cost and transport costs of food added (in accordance with the matching clause) to the food provided by UNICEF, are met through private contributions collected by the *Salzburger Landeshilfe*, and through payments by pupils. For their part the communes meet the expenses of preparation. The total expenses for the service in 1948 amounted to roughly 850,000 schillings for 28,082 recipients.

Meals are generally prepared at the schools themselves, and only occasionally at a restaurant from which they are subsequently distributed to the various schools.

At irregular intervals, control visits are made by officials from UNICEF and the regional and district authorities.

#### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service operates in twenty-seven primary schools (*Volkschulen*), seven senior primary schools (*Hauptschulen*), and two intermediate schools (*Mittelschulen*). Recipients are selected on the basis of health, means, and distance of home from school.

The number of recipients amounted to 28,082 in 1948, and now stands at 7,000, representing 17.5% of the school population.

Children are required to pay no more than two schillings a month, in accordance with the instructions from the Federal Ministry of Food. Necessitous children are exempted from even this nominal payment, thanks to the system of "free places" (*Freiplätze*) set up in each canteen, of which 20% are provided by the regional authorities.

#### MEALS SERVED

Only a mid-day meal is served. Its composition and amount per meal per child conform to the instructions issued by the Federal Ministry of Food.

Children are supervised during meals by the teachers. Children help to serve the food, but take no part in its preparation.

#### CLOTHING

In the course of the school year 1948-1949, UNICEF provided a certain quantity (329 kilos in all) of clothing, which did not cover more than a fraction of the needs of necessitous children.



## BELGIUM

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals services in Belgium are organised as pupils' cooperatives, under the control of the intermediate education branch of the Ministry of Education. Such cooperatives are autonomous and, from the legal point of view, form private undertakings.

The departmental services procure all the material necessary for the running of each canteen. Canteens are expected to be self-supporting. Any profit made is returned to the pupils in kind, in the form of free meals, for example.

Canteens are installed on the premises of intermediate schools. Each such school has its canteen and dining-room.

A small canteen (fifty pupils) may cost 25,000 francs a year, one of average size (one hundred pupils) 50,000 francs a year, and a large one (over one hundred pupils) 125,000 francs a year or more. The average price of a meal is 14 francs; the net cost is increased by 50% to allow for expenses, insurance and salaries.

The running of the canteens is controlled by a representative of the intermediate education branch of the Ministry. Their practical organisation is in the hands of a teacher, under the supervision of the headmaster. The accounts, entered up each day, are checked by the departmental representative.

#### RECIPIENTS

School meals services exist in all types of intermediate schools, and in the preparatory classes attached to them.

All pupils may take meals at the canteen, if they so wish. Those who bring their own food from home, have places reserved for them in the dining-room, with a plate, knife, fork, spoon and glass.

Roughly 75% of pupils benefit from the services, except in the large towns, where the corresponding figure is not more than 20%.

Pupils pay for meals. Old boys' or friendly associations undertake to pay for necessitous children.

Prices vary according to district. On an average, soup costs 2 francs, chipped potatoes 4 francs, beer 2 francs, mineral water or lemonade 2.50 francs, a full hot meal 14 francs, coffee 1 franc, café-au-lait with sugar 1.50 francs, milk 1.25 francs.

Parents are informed of what their children's food has cost.

### MEALS SERVED

Out of a total of 8,735, 675 schools serve a hot meal at mid-day, 1,166 serve hot soup, and 3,866 organise the supervision of lunch. Apart from the mid-day meal, canteens provide other foods (sweets, cakes, chocolates, etc., excluded). Milk is distributed in several schools (girls' lycées).

The menus of the full lunch, served four times a week, are as follows :

- Monday :* pea soup, pork chop, endive, mashed potatoes, fruit, a glass of beer.
- Tuesday :* Carrot soup, stewed beef, chipped potatoes, cake, a glass of beer.
- Wednesday :* vegetable soup, veal or pork rissoles or sausages, potato rissoles, Brussels sprouts, custard, a glass of beer.
- Friday :* leek soup, fish (skate or cod), eggs, mashed or chipped potatoes, rice cup, a glass of beer.

A portion of meat weighs not less than 100 grams without bone, or 125 grams with bone.

The staff of a school canteen generally consists of a cook, two assistants, and a maid.

Children are supervised during meals by the assistant teachers in turn.

### CLOTHING

#### ORGANISATION

Provision of clothing for schoolchildren in Belgium is mainly made by private associations seeking to alleviate hardship in various schools in turn. These associations secure the necessary funds by organising festivals, lotteries and the like, and also through gifts, legacies and other private contributions.

In accordance with Article 46 of the primary education act, as coordinated by royal decree dated 25th October, 1921, the communal or provincial authorities are required to see that such provision is made without discrimination as to type of school.

#### RECIPIENTS

Most of the children benefiting from the provision of clothing attend nursery-infant or primary schools.

It is not possible to give even an approximate estimate of the number of such children, but it certainly does not exceed 5-10%.

The articles distributed include overcoats, pullovers, scarves, footwear, socks and shirts.

Distribution is effected with a certain generosity, and in a such a way as not to hurt the susceptibilities of the parents or of the children themselves.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Clothing is distributed by selected teachers, or by members of the association concerned.

In order to give greater significance to such distribution, it generally takes place at such times as St. Nicholas, Christmas and Easter.



## BOLIVIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In all public schools in Bolivia, the organisation of a lunch service is in the hands of the Ministry of Labour and Social Assistance, through the intermediary of the department of social aid to schools. The service is financed entirely by the government, at an annual cost of 4,000,000 bolivianos (a large part of the revenue from certain taxes, including entertainments tax, is earmarked for the purpose, in accordance with a law dated 1st February, 1945).

Control is exercised by headmasters, and by inspectors representing the department of social aid to schools.

#### RECIPIENTS

Lunch is distributed free to pupils coming from families of restricted means. Such pupils number about 12% of the school population. The service exists mainly in nursery and primary schools, more rarely in secondary schools.

#### MEALS SERVED

The lunch served usually consists of a hot drink (milk, coffee, *quaquer*, etc.), bread, butter and cheese. Other ingredients may be maize or buck-wheat flour or oat flakes. The required vitamin and mineral content of the meal is given in the tables published by the organisers of the service.

The meal is prepared and distributed during the course of the morning by a person specially charged with the task. Teachers supervise the children. The children help with the clearing away and washing up.

#### CLOTHING

The authorities organising the school lunch service are also responsible for the provision of clothing to children coming from necessitous or large families, and to orphans.

Such provision is made in the nursery and primary schools, at an annual cost to the government of 600,000 bolivianos. The chief articles distributed are white aprons, blue overalls, shirts and pants.

On the basis of preliminary suggestions from teachers and headmasters, the articles of clothing are selected and distributed by inspectresses and school visitors nominated by the department of social aid to schools.

## BRAZIL

From the report<sup>1</sup> sent by the Ministry of Education and Health

### SCHOOLS MEALS AND CLOTHING

In Brazil the *Caixa escolar* (" School Fund ") is responsible for social aid to schoolchildren. This institution operates in all primary schools, on the basis of contributions from parents and the public in general. It provides necessitous children with a snack consisting as a rule of a cup of milk and a cheese sandwich, and also with school materials, uniforms and footwear.

In some regions school cooperatives have been organised. Their purpose is to foster a spirit of cooperation among the pupils and to obtain for them materials and clothing at specially low prices.

Wherever extreme poverty is found, as in the industrial quarters of the large towns and in the fishing areas, the local authorities distribute a free meal to all schoolchildren, without distinction. This meal is prepared in a kitchen installed in the school, and consists of soup made of vegetables, cereals and meat.

<sup>1</sup> Arriving when this volume was already under press, and thus not covered by the " General Survey ".

## BULGARIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals services in Bulgarian elementary, primary and pre-grammar schools are organised by the social welfare sections of the people's committees, and the local parents' committees. In the grammar schools, they take the form of cooperatives. Both types of service receive subsidies from the parents' committees, the school, and the government.

Assistance to necessitous children from the school or the government is of two kinds: payment in full or in part of board, and scholarships. The total sum granted for scholarships was 4,000,000 levas in 1943, 410,000,000 levas in 1947 and 420,000,000 levas in 1949.

Moral and material aid is also forthcoming from the organisations and local committees of the "Fatherland Front".

Dining-rooms, buffets and canteens are as a rule situated on the school premises, and only occasionally on suitable premises outside the school.

The maintenance costs for school meals for 120,320 children in primary schools are 1,200,000,000 levas a year. Total maintenance costs for a dining-room depend on the number of children served. The average cost price per meal is 50 levas.

#### RECIPIENTS

A total of 14% (120,320) of primary school children and 5% (5,878) of grammar school pupils receive free meals, the former in the dining-rooms, the latter in the cooperative canteens.

In the dining-rooms of the primary schools food is served free to necessitous children; in the buffets, all pupils may obtain breakfast at a low price; all the grammar schools have cooperative canteens, and all pupils, the necessitous ones among them excepted, pay for their meals.

#### MEALS SERVED

The buffets are open all day. Pupils can get lunch in the dining-rooms, and lunch and dinner in the school canteens.

Food should be of good quality, and rich in vitamins and calories.



Dining-rooms, buffets and canteens have their own paid staffs, whose work is controlled by the school doctors and the school medical authorities.

Duty teachers supervise the children during meals.

Children help in preparing and serving meals.

## CLOTHING

Clothing is provided for schoolchildren by the commerce and supplies section of the people's committees.

## CANADA

From the replies sent by the Provincial Departments of Education

### Alberta

#### SCHOOL MEALS

##### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In the urban centres of Alberta, a mid-day meal at school is not necessary, as the children almost invariably go home at noon for lunch. In rural areas, on the other hand, the children live on farms (not in villages) and travel a considerable distance to school, and as a rule they bring their lunches to school.

The local education authorities, the "Boards", are free to supplement the lunches which the children bring to school, with a hot drink or soup, and usually bear the expense. In some cases teachers and parents cooperate in the provision of hot supplements at their own expense, and in other cases the "Home and School Association" interests itself in the matter.

There is no scarcity of food in the province, and children generally bring sufficient quantities of food from home. The supplement provided at school thus costs no more than a few cents per meal, and the total cost does not exceed \$2,500.

Wherever a "Board" undertakes to assist in providing a noon meal, it generally provides a room in the school for the purpose.

The provision of such a service being purely voluntary on the part of the "Boards", it is not checked or controlled in any way by the Department of Education.

##### RECIPIENTS

As already noted, meals are provided only in the rural areas of the province, wherever the "Boards" take the initiative. The children affected are as a rule those of the elementary and intermediate grades, and they represent less than 4% of the pupils in the schools of the province.

Meals are usually free.

In some of the cities, necessitous and underweight children are given milk free, and others have the option of buying it if their parents wish them to have it.

### MEALS SERVED

As noted above, where anything approaching a canteen service is operating in a school, only a mid-day meal is provided, consisting in general of a hot supplement (soup or a hot drink) to the food the children bring from home. The Department of Agriculture, with the support of the Department of Education, has issued a pamphlet, "Lunch Boxes and Hot School Lunches", which gives parents useful suggestions on keeping the contents of the lunch box at a high nutritional standard, fresh and appetising, and on packing them. The pamphlet also contains hints and recipes, for the use of the "Boards", for preparing the hot noon supplement (cocoa, vegetable soups, milk soups, etc.).

Older pupils and the teachers very often take part in the preparation and serving of the meals. Teachers are responsible for the supervision of the children during the meals.

Some of the "Boards" provide vitamin tablets for the children. Milk is distributed only in the urban areas.

### CLOTHING

There is no official service for the provision of clothing to schoolchildren in Alberta. The central government pays parents a sum varying from \$5 to \$8 per month for each child attending school, which they are expected to spend on clothing and other necessities, so that the child is properly equipped for school. Where necessary, the municipal authorities supervise the spending of these funds.

A national insurance scheme takes care of the family when the breadwinner is not working. In addition, the municipal and federal authorities undertake jointly to take care of families that are destitute.

Some organisations, such as the Salvation Army and church societies, voluntarily collect and distribute used clothing.

At the present time, wages are high and work is plentiful, so there is practically no want, and the need to make official provision of clothing to schoolchildren has not been felt.

## New Brunswick

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In New Brunswick the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Health, assists in, and advises on, the organisation of school meals services in the various communes. The initiative is left to the communes. They can count on the assistance and coopera-



tion of the "Supervisor of Home Economics" in the Department of Education, and of two nutritionists from the Department of Health.

Such a service has so far been established only in six of the fifteen counties of New Brunswick.

Sometimes the municipality pays for the service, and often the Women's Institute, the Home and School Association and the Red Cross Society cooperate in supporting it. On the whole, however, the services are self-supporting.

In twenty recent consolidations, the meals are served in the auditorium adjoining the cafeteria section of the home economics department; the work is done by the teacher with help from the students, and the cost price of the (supplementary) food supplied averages from 10 to 15 cents. Certain secondary and high schools have their own cafeteria with paid help, where the average cost price of a full meal is 31 cents.

Services are supervised by the Home Economics Department, except in the case of small rural schools, where the teachers themselves are responsible.

#### RECIPIENTS

The demand for school meals services comes mainly from the small rural schools. Out of a total of 1,612 schools in the province, 397 have so far established a meals service, and no less than 350 of these are small rural schools.

Out of a total enrolment of some 15,000 pupils, 7,000 benefit from school meals services, of which no less than 6,000 attend small rural schools.

In certain localities, underprivileged children receive milk or cod-liver oil.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

A good deal of propaganda is made by the authorities, especially where teachers are concerned, for the extension and improvement of the school meals services. The Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the New Brunswick division of the Canadian Red Cross Society are the joint publishers of a pamphlet called "Lunches at School".

#### CLOTHING

There is no official service for the provision of clothing to school-children. Aid is given through family welfare and other social organisations, church organisations, and the Red Cross.

### Newfoundland

#### SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING

In Newfoundland, the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Department of Education, distributes cod-liver oil and cocoa-milk to most schools in rural areas.

The provision of clothing to necessitous children is made through the Department of Public Health, on the recommendation of the district relieving officer.

## Ontario

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals services in Ontario, where they exist, are organised and financed by the local school boards. The total cost per annum of the service is not known, but an experiment carried out by the Junior Red Cross showed that an acceptable and nutritious school meal could be supplied at 17 cents.

School lunches are usually provided, if at all, in the school building. They are organised in cafeteria style in the larger schools, and in the regular classrooms in small rural schools.

Sometimes private associations provide milk or light lunches for needy and other children recommended by the school doctor.

In respect of school meals, it is recommended that the "Canada Food Rules" issued by the central government, be followed.

#### RECIPIENTS

A school lunch service is found mostly in larger secondary schools and small rural schools. In the former case, the service is generally organised, as noted above, in cafeteria style, food being supplied at cost in most cases. In the latter case, noon lunch (a hot dish for children living some distance from the school) is mostly free, and prepared often from supplies brought from home.

Free provision of milk may be made in any type of school, the recipients in many cases being necessitous children.

Approximately 15% of the total school population take lunch at school.

#### MEALS SERVED

Every effort is made by the school health officers to ensure that the meals provided are nutritious, but no specific statutory provision is made as to the composition of menus.

Children help in the serving of meals.

### CLOTHING

Provision of clothing to schoolchildren is made, not through the schools, but by the public welfare organisation of each municipality.

## Prince Edward Island

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In the province of Prince Edward Island, there are many rural schools where nearly all the children bring their lunch to school. In those schools where equipment is available, the teacher is responsible for the organisation of hot lunches.

The average cost of a school meal is 10 cents, making a total cost per annum per child of \$20. The hot lunch services are usually financed by the parents, with donations from such organisations as the "Women's Institutes".

#### RECIPIENTS

Schools with hot lunch services are usually rural schools. All children who bring their lunch to school receive the hot meal, whether they can pay for it or not.

Hot lunch services are a new venture in the province, and so far only about 10% of the schools have them. Some 80% of the children in these schools benefit from them.

#### MEALS SERVED

The following are typical examples of mid-day menus, each including a hot dish:—

- (a) cream of tomato soup, brown-bread ham sandwiches, apple, cookie, milk;
- (b) baked beans, brown bread, orange, cake, milk;
- (c) scalloped tomatoes, brown bread, peanut-butter sandwiches, canned pears, milk;
- (d) cocoa, egg sandwiches, raw carrot, cookies, milk;
- (e) macaroni cheese, wholemeal bread, prunes, milk.

The teachers or often the older children are responsible for serving the meals. Both boys and girls help to prepare them.

Only a mid-day meal is served in the rural schools. In some urban schools milk is distributed during the course of the day.

#### CLOTHING

There is no provision of clothing to schoolchildren either by the province or the municipalities. The Red Cross distributes some clothing to needy children.



## Quebec

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

No statutory provision is made for school meals in Quebec. In rural areas, wherever the need arises, pupils who live too far from the school to be able to go home at mid-day, are given opportunity to have the food heated, which they have brought from home.

The Department of Education encourages teachers to propagate the principles of sound feeding among the public in general and parents in particular.

A glass of milk is distributed free to all pupils in certain towns by the school board or welfare associations.

#### RECIPIENTS

The number of children taking lunch at school is approximately 25,000, representing 20% of the total enrolment. Such children are to be found exclusively in the so-called *de rangs* rural schools, where instruction rarely goes beyond the primary stage.

#### MEALS SERVED

As meals are not prepared at the school in Quebec, the official recommendations concerning them are addressed to parents. The pamphlet "Vitalité" published by the Department of Education, suggests the following type of meal, permitting of many different combinations: milk or cheese; fruit or raw vegetable; meat, fish or egg; bread or pastries.

Sugar is given in the form of fruit, dessert or sweets.

"The meal", the above pamphlet states, "should be eaten slowly, in a peaceful, pleasant atmosphere", and it recommends teachers "to give discreet advice on health, dress, behaviour and regard for others".

### CLOTHING

In Quebec, as in other provinces of Canada, parents are enabled to dress their children properly, thanks to the aid of family allowances from the federal government. The province is on the whole prosperous, and the cases where private charitable assistance is called for are rare.

## Saskatchewan

### SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING

Economic conditions are in general satisfactory in Saskatchewan, and the need to organise social aid to schoolchildren in the form of school meals services and the provision of clothing does not arise.

There are about 3,500 rural schools in the province, to which, as in the other provinces, many children take their lunch when they live too far from the school to go home at mid-day. Pamphlets and leaflets are issued telling mothers how to make such a lunch as nutritive and palatable as possible, and how to pack it.

## CEYLON

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In Ceylon there are no official canteens proper in schools, but a few of the senior schools run them on their own initiative to cater for the needs of pupils. As the majority of children have insufficient pocket-money to spend in such canteens, an island-wide canteen service is not advocated.

There is, however, a free mid-day meal service. This is financed by the State, at an annual cost of nine million rupees. To enhance the quality and quantity of meals, some local bodies make contributions amounting to nearly 52,000 rupees per annum.

Instructions are issued to the heads of schools from time to time with regard to the procedure and management of this service. Inspectors see that these instructions are carried out, and check up on books and registers. Head teachers render monthly accounts to the central office.

The average cost of a meal is 6 cents. Except where local bodies contribute at least a further 4 cents, the meal given is only a snack.

#### RECIPIENTS

The free mid-day meal service operates in infant, primary and junior schools, for (a) the children in primary schools who do not go home for lunch, and (b) the children (25 %) in junior schools, who are considered needy. Some 694,000 children, out of a total of 1,005,000 schoolchildren, are supplied with such meals.

#### MEALS SERVED

The meal supplied must be the best that can be procured with the money available, and nutritional value should be given great importance in the choice of food. The basic meal may consist of : (a) milk (not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  bottle), (b) rice, cereals, yams, rusks or bread (not less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ozs), together with a curry soup, plantains, butter, cheese or *sambol*, (c) curried rolls or sugared buns (not less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ozs). Substitutes such as sweet potatoes, *jak*, breadfruit, etc., suitably prepared, may be served in rotation, not more than twice a week.



The heads of schools with the assistance of their staff are responsible for the serving of meals and the supervision of the children. Senior pupils take part in preparing and serving meals.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The parent-teacher associations are encouraged to take an active interest in the meal service. Certain public officers are allowed to visit schools during meal times and make reports and suggestions.

#### CLOTHING

The central government is responsible for the organisation of the provision of clothing to schoolchildren, and the education department administers the scheme direct from its head office in Colombo. Funds, amounting at present to between 150,000 and 180,000 rupees a year, are voted for the service out of the general revenue of Ceylon, under the credits for the education department.

Approximately 4% of schoolchildren benefit from the service. Provision of clothing is confined to the fifty-four "Central Schools". The required condition is for a pupil to hold a scholarship in one of these schools; there are 4,106 such scholarships, a maximum of 100 being allowed per school.

The choice of clothing is made by the head office of the education department, in consultation with a special board. Sarees, jackets, petticoats and night-dresses are distributed to girls; shorts, shirts, banians and sarongs to boys; and sheets, towels and kitbags to boys and girls.

## COLOMBIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

A school meals service has existed in Colombia since 1936. Its organisation was modified by Decree No. 2936 of 21st September, 1949, and in their present form, the *restaurantes escolares* serve the twin purposes of making up for deficiencies in the food the children receive at home, and of inculcating good habits in respect of food. The same decree also requires the school meals service to be run in connection with the school farm, where the children may become familiar with agricultural practice and develop a sense of comradeship and community. The *restaurantes escolares* have both a social and an educational aim.

Being an official institution, the school meals service is financed by the government, the provinces (*departamentos*) and the communes, with assistance in some cases from private associations or individuals. To be eligible for government grant, the communes must provide the school with land for the farm.

The school meals service costs 800,000 pesos a year, of which 300,000 pesos are paid by the government, the rest by the provinces and communes. The average cost price of a meal is 25 centavos.

In some districts the service operates in the form of a cooperative, in which case pupils may pay a small sum for meals.

Dining-rooms, kitchens and larders are installed in the school itself or in attached buildings.

The service is controlled by the government, provinces and communes, by means of inspectors. Constant local supervision is exercised by an administrative committee (*Junta administradora*) composed of a teacher, the municipal treasurer, a representative of the parents, the local priest, and possibly a doctor.

There are a number of interesting developments in Colombia in respect of holiday camps and boarding schools for native children, but these unfortunately do not come within the scope of the present inquiry.

#### RECIPIENTS

School meals are served to approximately 10% out of a total of 720,000 primary school children. They are chosen from those belonging to families of modest means and, where conditions in this respect are

equal, preference is given to those living some distance from the school. To avoid any suggestion of "charity", pupils are asked to take part in the work of the farm, the produce of which is used for the meals.

If the meals service is in the form of a cooperative, all pupils who so wish, may take meals against a small payment in cash or kind.

#### MEALS SERVED

The meal served is generally the mid-day one. Only in very few places is it replaced by the distribution of milk, bread and fruit in the course of the day.

In making the menus, account is taken of the nutritional value of the foods used and of climatic conditions. An endeavour is also made to improve the children's eating habits, by accustoming them to certain foodstuffs not yet known in their district. Teachers are responsible for supervising the children during the meals. Meals are cooked by the kitchen staff. In girls' schools, the girls give some help in preparing and serving the meals. Help from the boys is forthcoming more in connection with the work on the school farm.

#### CLOTHING

Provision of clothing is made only in cases of need, in some few primary schools. It is organised and financed by the communal authorities. Sometimes private individuals contribute cloth or articles of clothing.

Articles of clothing are chosen and distributed by the communal authorities and the teachers. In designating pupils for assistance of this kind, account is taken of their material conditions, and of their conduct and progress at school.



## COSTA RICA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals service in Costa Rica is organised by the Ministry of Health (*Salubridad publica*), in conformity with Law No. 121 of the 27th July, 1942. Its operation is in the hands of the teachers at each school.

The government devotes the proceeds of a supplementary tax on liquors to the service (by article 5 of the above-mentioned law), contributions are made from time to time by the communes and the *Patronatos escolares* (parent-teacher associations), and aid is forthcoming at the present time from UNICEF.

During 1949 the sums from official sources totalled roughly 348,600 colons, representing an average of 21.12 colons per child.

The service is controlled by teachers, school inspectors, and officials of the Ministry of Health.

The *Patronato nacional de la infancia* also organises, among other forms of assistance, dining-rooms and food centres.

#### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service operates in primary schools and nursery-infant schools, and is beginning to appear in some secondary establishments. By article 1 of the law mentioned above, priority should be given to rural schools and to schools attended by children from families of modest means.

The conditions of eligibility for school meals vary. In some schools recipients are selected on the basis of the economic circumstances of the parents, and of the distance of their home from the school; in other schools, no discrimination is made between the children, but meals may be served only two or three times a week or to different classes in turn; only in very few schools are meals served every day to all children.

Meals are in principle free, but many parents voluntarily make small contributions.

Out of a total of 103,000 children, 16,500 benefited from the service in 1949.

#### MEALS SERVED

A mid-day meal has been introduced in a few schools as an experiment, but the service is as a rule restricted to the distribution of beverages, milk or other food during class hours.

The law mentioned above includes instructions concerning the choice of food. Article 3 recommends the use of protective foods produced by the country and whose nutritional value is insufficiently recognised; it also states that the main aim of the school meals service is to give children healthier food habits and to combat parasitic diseases of the intestinal tract.

Children are supervised during the meals by their teachers. Meals are as a rule prepared and served by the duty teachers, often with the help of the children.

### CLOTHING

There is no provision of clothing from official sources in Costa Rica. The *Patronatos escolares* (parent-teacher associations), however, do much useful work in this respect in a number of schools, providing mainly uniforms. Sometimes aid is forthcoming through the initiative of individual teachers.

A legal decree drawn up in 1941, concerning the supply of footwear to schoolchildren, has for all practical purposes remained in abeyance.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education, Science and Art

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Before the second world war, the school meals services in Czechoslovakia were philanthropic in character. Through the coming of the people's democracy, they were placed on an entirely new basis in 1949. Their organisation is now in the hands of bodies coming under the Ministry of Social Assistance (the children's welfare offices in the districts), in collaboration with the communes (local people's committees).

The services are financed through subsidies from the Ministry of Social Assistance and the communes, contributions in the case of the latter being voluntary.

They are for the most part installed on school premises, being complete with kitchen, larder and dining-room. In small schools, meals are served in the hall or the classroom.

The total sum allocated for the services increases each year. In 1949, Prague earmarked twenty million crowns for them. The average cost price of a meal is up to six crowns in nursery-infant schools, and up to eight crowns in other schools.

Control of the services is exercised by the area doctor, as part of his official duties, and by representatives of the children's welfare offices and the communes.

#### RECIPIENTS

Canteens are found in schools of all types, including the nursery-infant schools, which are open all day for children whose parents go out to work.

Roughly 30% of the total school population benefit from the meals services.

The services are intended for all children who ask for them.

Meals may be free, or children may have to pay for them at prices varying according to the material circumstances of their parents, but in no case exceeding the cost price.

#### MEALS SERVED

The majority of canteens serve a mid-day meal, but milk is also distributed at the breaks, and beverages containing vitamins.

A committee composed of the delegates from the Ministries of Social Assistance, Food, Public Health, and Education, and from the Prague



central committee, has issued instructions and a list of specimen menus, due account being taken of nutritive values and composition.

The following are the menus for one week in nursery-infant schools in Prague :

*Monday :*

mid-day : Vegetable soup, semolina soufflé.

afternoon : Cocoa, bun.

*Tuesday :*

mid-day : Soup, veal, potatoes, lettuce and radish salad, cake.

afternoon : Milk, bread.

*Wednesday :*

mid-day : Potato soup, dumplings (*knedlik*), spinach, egg, pudding.

afternoon : Milk coffee, jam sandwiches.

*Thursday :*

mid-day : Pea soup, braised liver, potatoes, spiced bread noodles.

afternoon : Milk, bread and butter.

*Friday :*

mid-day : Tomato soup, white bread, turnip-cabbage, potatoes, spiced bread noodles.

afternoon : Cocoa, bread.

*Saturday :*

mid-day : Vermicelli soup, minced meat with eggs, potatoes, lettuce salad.

The following are specimen menus in other types of school :

*Monday :* Semolina soup, potatoes and cream cheese, milk coffee.

*Tuesday :* Vermicelli soup, minced meat with eggs, potatoes, lettuce salad.

*Wednesday :* Milk soup with white bread, turnip-cabbage, potatoes, cake, milk.

*Thursday :* Vermicelli soup, braised liver, potatoes, lettuce salad.

*Friday :* Pea soup, risotto, tomato sauce, pudding.

*Saturday :* Flour soup, beef with fennel sauce, potatoes, tea, bun.

In the larger schools, the meals services have a permanent, paid staff, and children are supervised during meals by teachers, the local people's committee, members of the parents' association, or volunteers.

Children take no part in preparing meals, and only older children are asked to help with the serving.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Within the framework of the five-year plan, it is intended to introduce a system ensuring the adequate nutrition of all schoolchildren. The nutrition plan for 1950 catered for 450,000 children. A school meals

law is shortly to be passed, based on the scheme for workers' canteens. According to the present draft, the Ministries of Food (provision of food-stuffs), Education (organisation), Health (medical inspection), Social Assistance, and Finance, will be required to take part in the organisation of school canteens.

## CLOTHING

### ORGANISATION

The provision of clothing for schoolchildren is organised by the local people's committees, whose budgets contain special sums earmarked for the purpose. The work is carried out by special committees made up of representatives of the communes, the social welfare offices, the parents' and friends' associations, and other corporate bodies.

These committees purchase stuff and other materials from the national enterprises that produce them, and then have the clothing made to measure. 35% of the total costs are met by the Ministry of Social Assistance.

### RECIPIENTS

Over ten thousand children benefited from the provision of clothing in 1948. Distribution was made in schools at all levels, but those at the elementary level benefited most.

Parents who wish their children to take part in such provision, are required to send a written request to that effect to the committee. The committee then investigates the social position of the parents, taking into account the number and ages of the children, and the means of livelihood and general state of health of the family.

Shoes and articles of clothing, for girls as well as for boys, are the things most frequently demanded.

Distribution is effected by the committees, and always includes members of the working class.

## DENMARK

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The provision of free meals in Denmark is administered by the municipal authorities. These authorities also defray the expenses, with the help of State subsidies amounting to one million crowns a year. No exact statement of expenses can be given at present, but as an example it may be mentioned that in the year 1948-1949 the cost of the provision of free meals for school children in a Danish provincial town of about 20,000 inhabitants was approximately 95,000 crowns, and about 134,000 portions were served.

The provision of meals is controlled by the head of the school in question.

#### RECIPIENTS

According to Law No. 40 of 20th February, 1948, meals are available for all children in primary schools, middle schools (examination and non-examination departments included), and the *real* classes, i.e., for all children from seven to sixteen years of age; roughly 50% of such children avail themselves of the privilege.

The meals are distributed free of charge.

#### MEALS SERVED

The meal generally consists of four pieces of bread-and-butter with meat, cheese, etc., and as many pieces of bread with jam or lard as a child may wish to have. Each child is given, moreover, an apple or a carrot and one-quarter of a litre of milk. In the winter months, some schools serve a hot dish every day or every other day.

If the meal is taken in the classroom, the children are looked after by their own teacher; if it is taken in a special room, the children are looked after by specially employed staff.

The children do not take part to any great extent in the cooking or serving of their food.

In connection with the choice of food, individual authorities receive the guidance of the public health committee.



## MISCELLANEOUS

Originally the school meals service was intended for the winter months only, from November to March, but the period was extended to cover the whole school year by Law No. 20 of February, 1948.

## CLOTHING

Clothing for schoolchildren is not in general provided at public expense. A private institution, called *Børnenes Kontor*, however, has done good work in this field, particularly in Copenhagen; it works in close cooperation with schools and derives its funds mainly from charity.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

From the reply sent by the Secretary of State for Education and the Fine Arts

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The *Comité nacional del Desayuno Escolar*, set up by a legal decree dated 12th December, 1949, is responsible for directing and developing a school meals service throughout the Dominican Republic. It is composed of seven members appointed by the government, and itself appoints the regional sub-committees (*juntas comunales y subjuntas seccionales*).

The school meals service is organised within the framework of the social assistance programme set up by the President, and is financed entirely by the government, costing 132,775 pesos per annum.

Meals are prepared in the kitchen to be found in each school, and served in appropriate premises conforming to hygienic standards.

The operation of the service is governed by regulations issued by the government.

#### RECIPIENTS

School meals are entirely free, and are intended for children in the official primary schools, whose parents are in difficult economic circumstances. At the present time recipients number about 15,000.

#### MEALS SERVED

In conformity with article 1 of the regulations, the *Comité nacional del Desayuno Escolar*, in consultation with nutrition experts, fixes the minimum quantity and composition of meals, due account being taken of the recipients' age, local customs and available funds. Meals should complement the food the children otherwise obtain, so as to aid their normal physical development, and should be healthy and nourishing.

Headmasters and teachers take part in turn in school meals. They see that the children learn to behave at table and to maintain a friendly atmosphere, and they endeavour to dissipate any notion that receiving school meals implies a certain inferiority.

#### CLOTHING

Provision is made in every official primary school for necessitous children to obtain uniforms and footwear at cost price and with facilities for payment. The service was established by presidential decree dated

12th June, 1950, and is directed by the committee in control of the meals service.

In each school the local parents' association or friends of the school undertake to sell the articles of clothing received from the committee, and to render to it a monthly statement of accounts. They also provide from their own funds the uniforms and footwear distributed free to orphans and children from very poor families.



## ECUADOR

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The first school canteen was established in Ecuador fifteen years ago, on the private initiative of a primary school teacher. He devoted the whole of his pension to the undertaking. The idea was welcomed, and at the present time there is a school meals service in government, communal and private schools in the more densely populated areas.

The Ministry of Education has issued regulations covering this service. Article 3 of these regulations states that the funds for the service derive from special government grants, and from charitable societies and private individuals. The service costs the government 1,000,000 sucres a year, the municipalities 200,000 sucres a year, and private individuals 20,000 sucres a year.

Children pay for the meals in certain private schools where the service is organised by the parents' committee.

Until such time as each urban school has its own equipment, the service is installed in a school so situated that it may serve a number of schools. As far as rural schools are concerned, if suitable accommodation is not available in the school itself, the meals service is installed in nearby buildings fulfilling the necessary requirements as regards size and hygiene.

The service is controlled by the school doctors and inspectors, and supervised by teachers.

In nursery-infant and primary schools where the meal served is breakfast, its average cost price is one sucre. In schools where the meal served is the mid-day one, its average cost price is one sucre and a half.

#### RECIPIENTS

In nursery-infant schools, the meals service is for all children without distinction, and in primary schools it is for those children whose parents are in need and whom the school doctor deems undernourished. In rural areas, children who live far from the school are also eligible.

#### MEALS SERVED

In nursery-infant schools, milk, bread and fruit is distributed during the course of the day. In certain primary schools, breakfast, consisting of bread and a ration of milk, is served before lessons begin. In other schools, a mid-day meal is served, with two or more courses.

As regards the composition of meals, Articles 15 and 16 of the ministerial regulations on school meals stipulate that account be taken not only of food prices, but also of climatic conditions, and of the children's living conditions and state of nutrition. The regional school doctors, with the guidance of general instructions issued by the school medical service, ensure that the composition and nutritional value of meals are satisfactory.

The headmaster of each school makes out a roster of teachers who are responsible for supervising the children during meals, and seeing that they learn to behave properly at table and are clean and properly dressed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Article 18 of the ministerial regulations on school meals stipulates that a record be kept of the physical development (height, weight, health) of each pupil taking school meals, and of his progress at school.

## EGYPT

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The organisation of the school meals service in Egypt is undertaken by the school hygiene department of the Ministry of Education. The supervision of meals supplied is carried out by the school hygiene sections attached to the "Educational Controls" established in different parts of the country. All problems concerning nutrition are submitted to the permanent nutrition committee attached to the Ministry of Public Health.

Meals are served in the school dining-rooms, to separate groups of eight pupils at most.

The cost of meals provided for Ministry and municipal schools is paid by the Ministry of Education, a sum of £E3,500,000 per annum being allocated for this purpose. The average cost of a dry meal is 22 millimes, that of a hot meal 48 millimes.

The supervision of the school kitchen, the distribution of meals and the management of the dining-room are undertaken by school supervisors and officers, senior masters and assistant headmasters.

#### RECIPIENTS

A mid-day meal is served to all boys and girls in the kindergartens, and the elementary, primary, secondary, technical and higher schools. Out of 1,107,653 schoolchildren, 902,000 (81.4%) were provided with meals in 1947-1948; and 1,051,000 in 1949-1950.

#### MEALS SERVED

The policy of the Ministry of Education is to provide schoolchildren with full meals, not supplementary ones composed of milk, fruits or cod-liver oil. Although the Ministry is aware of the importance of milk in feeding children, this policy was adopted because of the insufficient production of milk in Egypt, its high price, and the lack of pasteurisation or sterilisation plants.

School meals are of two types: (a) a hot meal composed of meat, vegetables, rice, bread and fruits, and (b) a dry or "Oslo" meal composed of cheese, eggs, cooked lentils or beans, oil, dried dates, peanuts, salad, tomatoes, fruits and bread.

The following table (drawn up from data contained in the Ministry of Education report on "School Feeding in Egypt", published in 1948) gives the nutritive value of the hot meal served in each type of school:

*Nursery Schools (children of 3-5 years):*

500 calories	(about 42% of daily needs)
8 grams animal proteins	(about 50% of daily needs)

*Kindergarten (5-8 years):*

630 calories	(33% of daily needs)
8 grams animal proteins	(44% of daily needs)

*Primary Schools (7-14 years):*

800 calories	(35% of daily needs)
9 grams animal proteins	(34% of daily needs)

*Secondary Schools (12-20 years):*

950 calories	(32% of daily needs)
12 grams animal proteins	(34% of daily needs)

*Higher Education (17-24 years):*

1210-1320 calories, according to the type of institution	
14-26 grams animal proteins (averaging 50% of daily needs)	

The following table (drawn from the same source) gives similar details in respect of the dry, "Oslo" meal:

*Primary Schools:*

750 calories	(34% of daily needs)
7 grams animal proteins	(27% of daily needs)

*Secondary Schools:*

950 calories	
12 grams animal proteins (nearly 32% of daily needs)	

*Elementary and Rural Schools (7-12 years):*

530 and 650 calories resp. (24% and 30% of daily needs)	
3 and 4 grams animal proteins resp. (13 and 18% of daily needs)	

Special staff, supervised by the school officers and doctors, are in charge of the infants during meal times.

Children do not help with the cooking and service except in domestic science schools.

## CLOTHING

Clothing for children is provided only in the homes and institutions coming under the Ministry of Social Affairs.



## FINLAND

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In accordance with the law dated 30th July, 1943, the communes in Finland are required to organise a school meals service.

Two-thirds of the expenses are met by the government, one-third by the communes.

The canteens are installed on or near school premises.

In 1947 the total expenses of the service amounted to 422,105,000 marks, the corresponding figure for 1948 being 30% higher.

By 1950, the average cost price of a meal had risen to fourteen marks (previously it was twelve marks in Helsinki and eight marks elsewhere).

The service is controlled by the communal authorities and the school doctors and inspectors.

#### RECIPIENTS

School meals (at the rate of one per day) are served free and compulsorily to all pupils between seven and eighteen years of age in the primary schools and in the experimental secondary schools attached to them. Independent secondary schools are not obliged to supply meals, but some of them do so on their own initiative.

In 1948-1949, 482,316 pupils took free school meals.

#### MEALS SERVED

So far no special instructions have been issued concerning the composition of school meals. They consist as a rule of porridge and milk, or milk, pea or meat soup. Pupils often bring sandwiches and milk from home.

During the period of food rationing, the calorific value of a meal amounted to about 300 units. It has increased slightly since then.

As from the 5th September, 1949, the meals served in the primary schools in Helsinki have been as follows:

- Monday:* Milk and semolina soup (344 calories).
- Tuesday:* Meat and potato soup (484 calories).
- Wednesday:* Pea soup (420 calories).
- Thursday:* Milk and semolina soup (344 calories).
- Friday:* Cabbage soup (439 calories).
- Saturday:* Milk and semolina soup (344 calories).

As soon as the import of raisins becomes possible, the milk soup and semolina will be replaced once a week by raisin and whortleberry or bilberry soup with bread and cheese (220 calories).

Schools meals are generally prepared by staff engaged for the purpose. In some places, preparation has been centralised ; in Helsinki, for example, all the food is prepared in central kitchens and transported by lorry to the schools.

Teachers supervise the children during meals. The children take no part in the preparation of meals, but often help in serving them and sometimes with the washing up.

## CLOTHING

### ORGANISATION

In accordance with the law dated 30th July, 1943, mentioned above, clothing is provided to schoolchildren by the communes.

As in the case of school meals, two-thirds of the expenses are paid by the government, one-third by the communes.

In 1947 the total cost of the service amounted to 50,348,630 marks (37,262,170 marks in the rural communes and 13,086,460 marks in the towns).

### RECIPIENTS

The provision of clothing is restricted to necessitous children of school age attending the primary schools, who would otherwise not be adequately equipped to attend school.

### DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of clothing and footwear is often centralised. It is entrusted to some communal body, as for example the directorate of primary schools. Every endeavour is made to provide clothing in good condition, which does not differ from the ordinary clothing worn by the other children.

As a rule each headmaster himself organises the distribution in his school. In the towns he is often assisted by a welfare committee.

## FRANCE

From the reply sent by the Ministry of National Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Social aid to schoolchildren is not centralised in France. The way it is organised varies greatly as between district and district and between town and country, by reason of varying economic and geographical factors and differing local traditions and customs, and of the considerable scope for initiative granted teachers by the educational authorities.

A school meals service will thus be found operating under many different forms and of varying extent. In small villages, for example, the solution adopted is often due to the resource and ingenuity of a group of teachers.

In Paris and many of the large towns, the school committees are responsible for organising the service, while in the provinces it is generally the municipality or a local association, or a committee representing both.

The necessary funds for operating a school meals service derive from the municipality, the department or the State, from school funds (aided by subscriptions, gifts, and collections at school shows), parents' associations, the public school pupils' charitable society (*Œuvre des Pupilles de l'Ecole publique*) and parents' payments.

The following are examples of sums paid into school canteens in 1948 :

Paris . . . . .	Frs. 380,000,000
Versailles and Department . . . . .	" 200,000,000
Lille and Department . . . . .	" 136,000,000
Poitiers . . . . .	" 23,320,000
Nîmes and Department . . . . .	" 12,000,000
Pau and Department . . . . .	" 4,400,000

The cost price of a school meal varies between 20 and 80 francs, the average being 60 francs in the towns, and considerably less in the country.

Accommodation varies, according to circumstances, from a simple village classroom to the specially arranged premises to be found in the towns, either apart from the school building or, more often, inside it. In Paris the closed-in playgrounds are used.

The school meals service is controlled by the school authorities of the educational level concerned, the school doctors, the municipalities and the school committees, and often by the managing committees, on which the parents are represented. A similar service operates in the private schools in and around Paris.

### RECIPIENTS

The school meals services operate as a general rule in the nursery-infant, primary and continuation schools, and also in some non-boarding secondary schools, as at Nice, Menton, Antibes, etc.

Such services are mainly intended for children who cannot easily eat at home, either because they live too far from the school or because their parents' means are limited, but they are in practice available for all children whose parents so desire.

The percentage of children partaking of school meals also varies greatly according to locality and school. The average is roughly 22%. So far as the private schools in or near Paris are concerned, this percentage is between 10% and 25% in the Catholic schools, while in sixty-four lay schools of the *chambre syndicale* a total of 1,300 children take such meals.

Necessitous children get meals free, while other children pay for them, with reductions varying according to the means of their parents and the number of children in the family. The price of a meal also depends on the canteen budget; in the commune of Selestat (Lower Rhine), for example, where the cost price of a meal is 70 francs, the pupils pay 5 francs. Other examples of prices children are asked to pay are as follows:

Paris . . . . .	Frs. 52-70
Marseilles : primary schools . . . . .	" 20-25
" : secondary schools . . . . .	" 60-70
Bordeaux . . . . .	" 18-35 (sometimes 65)
Lille . . . . .	" 15-50 (sometimes 75)
Arras and Department . . . . .	" 20-60
Coutances and Department (St. Lô) . . . . .	" 10-15 (sometimes 30-80)
Châlons-s/Marne, Rheims and Department . . . . .	" 15-60
Evreux and Department . . . . .	" 20-50
Laval and Department . . . . .	" 10-25
Auxerre and Department . . . . .	" 30
Le Puy and Department (Haute-Loire) . . . . .	" 15-20
Rodez and Department (Aveyron) . . . . .	" 20-25
Mende and Department . . . . .	" 20
Tarbes and Department . . . . .	" 40
Carcassone and Department . . . . .	" 20-30
Perpignan and Department . . . . .	" 30-50
Corsica . . . . .	30

No true average of these figures can be found, as the children often merely buy something to supplement the food they have brought from home. At Niort, for example, they may buy hot soup for 5 francs, a meal without meat for 20 to 25 francs, and a meal with meat for 30 to 40 francs.

For a complete meal in the three specimen weekly menus given below, children would pay 15 to 25 francs at Castres, 20 (reduced rate 15) francs at Troudoust, and 70 (half-rate 35, reduced rate 15) francs in Grenoble.



## MEALS SERVED

The school canteens generally serve the mid-day meal, very often snacks, and occasionally nourishing drinks. The following are specimen weekly menus from three different regions :

*Castres (Languedoc)*

- Monday : Soup, potato salad, macaroni cheese, jam.  
 Tuesday : Spaghetti, potatoes mashed in milk, fish, chocolate cream.  
 Wednesday : Soup, mashed peas, rice pudding.  
 Thursday : Soup, macaroni pudding, stewed pears.  
 Friday : Spaghetti, potatoes mashed in milk, minced roast beef, chocolate cream.  
 Saturday : Soup, mashed beans, rice pudding.

*Troudousten (Brillany)*

- Monday : Vegetable soup, stewed beef, potatoes, jam.  
 Tuesday : Vegetable soup, noodles with tomato sauce, jam.  
 Wednesday : Vegetable soup, sausages, mashed potatoes, jam.  
 Friday : Soup, Semolina, Jam.

*Grenoble (Dauphiné)*

- Monday : Lentil salad, noodles, omelette, stewed fruit.  
 Tuesday : Soup, 2 sardines, rice, polenta with eggs, stewed fruit.  
 Wednesday : Soup, bean salad, meat dumplings, mashed potatoes, chestnut cream.  
 Friday : Soup, baked fish, macaroni, stewed fruit.  
 Saturday : Lentil salad, liver, macaroni, chocolate cream.

Every effort is made to give the children well balanced food, suited to their age and as varied as possible.

Meals are supervised by the teachers. In rural communes teachers often serve the meals and sometimes even cook them ; only in the towns are the meals served by paid assistants.

In order that they may have a complete rest during the mid-day interval, children are not as a rule required to help with the meals. In the villages, however, where circumstances render it necessary, children get vegetables ready, wash up, etc. There are also some schools where work in connection with the meals forms part of the girls' domestic science curriculum.

## MISCELLANEOUS

France would appear to be one of the countries to have taken the lead in respect of school meals. The question was already under consideration by the municipal council in Paris in 1879, and the first steps towards their establishment were taken in 1882. The school meals service has steadily grown ever since, and is now one of the auxiliary public school services, facilitating attendance at school.

Among recent publications concerning the school meals service, mention should be made of the Ministry of Education circulars for 14th

January, 1937, and 4th February, 1938, on State aid, and the circular for 10th February, 1939, on allowances and ways of stimulating teachers' initiative in regard to the service.

A clear, brief account of present regulations concerning the school meals service, is to be found in the fifth number for 1948 of *Education nationale*, the weekly public education journal.

## CLOTHING

The provision of clothing is much less developed in France than the school meals service. For similar reasons to those given in the case of the latter service, it is not centralised, and takes many forms according to local circumstances. In some departments, such provision is made by an official body, in others by some private charitable association working with the approval and under the control of an official body.

In and around Paris, clothing is provided in the nursery-infant schools and the communal primary schools. A total of 4,400,000 francs is earmarked in the budget of the eighty Seine communes for this purpose. In Bordeaux, special work of this kind is done by a charitable association called *L'Œuvre du vestiaire*.

In Annecy, Chartres, Tours and many other towns, the association of the *Pupilles de l'école publique* undertakes to provide clothing to necessitous children.

In Lille and the Nord Department, this same association, the municipalities, the school committees and various other associations pool their resources, and thus dispose of a budget of 4 to 5 million francs.

The percentage of children benefiting from the provision of clothing amounts to 9% in Paris, 10% in the suburbs of Paris, 2% to 25% in and around Lyons, 20% in the Manche Department (nursery-infant schools), 15% to 18% at Rennes, 20% in Nancy, 10% in Grenoble, 60% in Vienne, 30% in Toulouse, 10% in Algiers, and 5% to 25% in Lille and the Nord Department.

The provision of clothing to necessitous children is thus everywhere effected either by an official or a private body. It needs to be noted, however, that all endeavour in this field is rendered very difficult through the rise in prices, especially of clothing, resulting from the war.

## HONDURAS

From the reply sent by the Secretariat of State for Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals service in Honduras is still in its initial stages, and so far exists only in some public primary schools, thanks to the parents' associations working in collaboration with the local educational authorities. The latter control the system.

The service is financed partly by festivals, lotteries, socials, etc., arranged by the parents' associations, and partly by the communal and district authorities.

Meals are distributed free. Their cost price is approximately 0.25 lempiras, expenses per pupil per month thus amounting to roughly 6.50 lempiras.

There is as yet no legislation covering the service.

#### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service being only recently established and developing rapidly, it is difficult to determine the number of children who benefit from it. Wherever it exists, it is available to all children without distinction.

#### MEALS SERVED

In most cases a mid-day meal is served. Its ingredients are the customary foods of Honduras : milk, eggs, meat, vegetables and rice.

The smaller girls help in preparing and serving the meals, and teachers and some of the pupils' mothers supervise the meals.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

There is widespread interest in the school meals service among parents and the general public in Honduras. The institution of this form of social aid to schoolchildren has been welcomed, and hopes are entertained that it will be extended and made universal.

## INDIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

School meals services, wherever they exist in India, are organised by the separate provinces.

#### Assam

Light refreshment is being provided on a voluntary basis in some schools in Shillong and Jorhat, as an experimental measure. The meal consists of fresh and dried fruits, eggs, bread-and-butter, sweetmeats, milk and germinated grams.

Pupils pay one rupee per month for such meals. Two thousand pupils benefit from the service.

#### West Bengal

There is a mid-day meal ("tiffin") service in aided high schools and *madrassahs*. Such a meal consists of puffed rice, molasses, milk, coconuts, bananas, seasonal fruits, sweets, nuts and grams. Children pay nine annas a month, except the poorest of them (20%), for whom the meals are free; 2,460 children benefit from the scheme.

There is in addition a compulsory "tiffin" service in twelve government high schools, benefiting some 4,126 students.

The provincial government contributes 17,000 rupees a year to the service.

#### Bombay

A free mid-day meal is supplied to pupils belonging to aboriginal and hill tribes, and to scheduled and other backward classes, and attending certain selected primary schools. The cost price of a meal is one anna, and its composition varies.

The service costs the provincial authorities 28,200 rupees a year.

#### Central Provinces and Berar

A mid-day meal is provided in some of the aboriginal schools in the Mandla District. The provincial government is considering the development and extension of this provision.

841 children partake of such meals, on which the government spends 26,300 rupees a year.



## Madras

A free mid-day meal is provided by the provincial government in all the "Labour Schools", except those in Madras city. 91,578 pupils benefit from the scheme, which costs the government 1,114,511 rupees a year.

In Madras it is the city corporation which supplies such meals in the "Labour Schools", at its own expense.

A meal generally consists of cooked rice (4 ozs), with soup of vegetables and pickles (*sambar*) or pepper soup.

## Orissa

Mid-day refreshments are provided for students in high schools, each student contributing one rupee a month.

The provincial government meets the cost of such refreshments for necessitous students, up to a maximum of 25% of the enrolment of each school. The government spent 58,620 rupees on the service in 1947-1948, and 50,840 rupees in 1948-1949.

Refreshments consist of varying combinations of germinated grams, guavas, *kora* (sugar and coconut or groundnuts), *chudabhaja*, skimmed milk and *khai*.

## United Provinces

There is no provincial government school meals service, but some 269 institutions are providing mid-day meals. On the one hand, children in secondary institutions get a meal of sprouted grams mixed with groundnuts, almonds, chopped apple or pear, lemon juice, small pieces of ginger, etc. A subscription of four annas per month per pupil for ten months in the year covers the cost of this service. On the other hand, milk is distributed on a subsidised basis to children up to twelve years of age in the municipal primary schools of Lucknow City. Each child receives about a quarter of a litre of milk every other day, at a nominal charge.

## Coorg

A school mid-day meals scheme has recently been sanctioned by the Ministry of Education.

## Himachal Pradesh

Provision for mid-day meals exists in two schools, affecting 172 children.

## IRELAND

From the reply sent by the Department of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Under the Education (Provision of Meals) Acts 1914-1930, local authorities in County Boroughs, Urban Districts and towns are empowered to provide meals for children attending the primary schools (the so-called "National Schools") in their area. In addition, the School Meals (*Gael-tacht*) Acts 1930 and 1933, authorise certain other local authorities to make provision for meals for children attending the primary schools of specified rural areas on the western seaboard; rural areas are otherwise unprovided for.

The appropriate local authority is primarily responsible for the organisation of the school meals service, but may associate, for the purpose of administering the service, with a committee consisting of the managers or teachers of the schools and of other interested persons.

In general, the cost of the meals is shared equally by the State and the local authority, but the latter bears the full cost of the equipment and of the wages of attendants.

In the year ending 31st March, 1948, the total expenditure of the local authorities was £144,160 on the provision of food, and £8,675 on administrative expenses. The average cost of one school meal was approximately 2.74 pence. Meals are given on school premises, but there are no canteens proper.

The general control of the service is vested in the Minister for Social Welfare, whose approval is required for alterations, improvements, contracts, etc. Matters relating to hygiene are dealt with by medical officers employed by the local authority.

#### RECIPIENTS

Only the children attending "National Schools" (i.e., the public elementary day schools) are eligible for school meals. The service, furthermore, is intended for necessitous children, but in practice little or no discrimination is exercised, and the meals are given to any child seeking them.

The average daily number of children who receive meals is 72,000 out of a total average daily attendance of 354,000 children.

The meals are provided without payment.

### MEALS SERVED

The school meal consists of a light collation, varying from area to area, intended to restore the energies of the children, and is not in substitution for the mid-day meal which the children normally obtain in their homes.

Local authorities are urged to make milk the basic constituent of the school meal, by reason of its high nutritive qualities and beneficial effect on growing children. The highest standard of meal is one-third of a pint of milk daily with sandwiches of meat (two days), cheese (two days) and jam (one day).

Hot stews containing meat and vegetables, are supplied in a few schools under the control of religious communities.

Supervision and serving is generally carried out by the teaching staff, or by a member of the religious community in charge of the school, assisted by paid attendants.

In many schools the senior children help in the preparation and serving of the meals.

### CLOTHING

There are no specific arrangements for the provision of clothing for schoolchildren as such. Persons in necessitous circumstances, however, are eligible to receive assistance under the Public Assistance Act, 1939, either in cash or in kind for themselves or their children.

In addition, a special scheme exists for the supply of footwear for children (between the ages of three and sixteen years) of necessitous persons. These provisions are operated by local public assistance authorities, with full discretionary powers, but are not operated through schools.

## ISRAEL

From the reply sent by the Department of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

As early as 1923, the first school meals services were being set up in Israel, long before it became an independent State, by an association of American women, called "Hadassa", in collaboration with local women's organisations and the communal authorities. In 1939 the government for the first time assumed responsibility for part of the expenses. From the beginning the services were intended for necessitous children, and closely associated with educational work, the direction of the canteens being given to domestic science teachers.

At the present time the following bodies help to organise the school meals services in Israel: (a) the Ministry of Social Services, (b) the Ministry of Education, (c) the Hadassa Association and (d) the local authorities, who are directly responsible for administration.

In 1948-1949 the expenses of the services were borne in the following proportions:

Government, via Ministry of Social Services . . . . .	17%
Hadassa Association . . . . .	17%
Local authorities . . . . .	18%
Children's contributions . . . . .	46%
UNICEF . . . . .	2%

In the same year, the services cost a total of £1,155,000, and the average cost of a meal was roughly 80 mils.

The services are installed either in or near the schools. In the majority of cases there is a dining-room, failing which meals are served in the classrooms.

The Hadassa Association controls the food side of the services, the inspectors and headmasters the educational (domestic science) side and the budget.

#### RECIPIENTS

The canteens operate mainly in the nursery-infant and primary schools for the benefit of necessitous children, children of weak health, and children whose mothers go out to work.

In some schools meals form part of lessons in the curriculum, and all pupils are then expected to take part in them.



In order to avoid any suggestion of "charity", all children have to pay for the meals, but in the case of those of limited means, the price asked is below cost and may be merely nominal.

In 1948-1949, out of a total of 111,000 pupils, about 30,300 benefited from the school meals services.

### MEALS SERVED

The mid-day meal served is composed in such a way as to provide a child with approximately 30% of the food he needs during the day, and to ensure that he gets all the elements—vitamins, proteins, iron, etc.—necessary for a balanced diet.

The following are specimen menus for one school week :

(a) Vegetable salad, fish rissoles and mashed potatoes, chocolate custard.

(b) Vegetable and macaroni soup, cheese fritters and Russian salad, vanilla custard and fruit.

(c) Vegetable mayonnaise, fried fish and potatoes boiled in milk, fruit salad.

(d) Vegetable soup with toasted breadcrumbs, pancakes stuffed with cream cheese, boiled vegetables, vanilla milk and a bun.

(e) eggplant and tomato mayonnaise, vegetable soup, macaroni with cream cheese, lemon custard.

In addition to the mid-day meal, a portion of milk is distributed in practically all schools during the course of the morning.

As in most cases the canteens form part of domestic science activities, meals are prepared and served by the children under the supervision of the domestic science teachers.

Supervision during the meals is effected by teachers (at least two per 100 pupils) who eat with the children.

### CLOTHING

The provision of clothing is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Services, and is not effected through the schools.

## ITALY

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING

In Italy social aid to necessitous children attending nursery and primary schools is organised by bodies recognised in 1947 as being of public utility, and operating in each commune under the name of the *Patronato scolastico*. Such aid includes, among other forms of assistance outside the scope of the present inquiry, a school meals service, for which each *Patronato* receives an annual subsidy from the Ministry of Education. In 1949-1950 these subsidies amounted in all to 150,000,000 liras.

So far as its funds allow, the *Patronato* also provides articles of clothing to necessitous children.

In addition, although on a much more modest scale, the school committees also assist children in need.

Complete re-organisation of social aid to schoolchildren forms part of large-scale school reform, conforming to the provisions of the new Italian constitution.

## LUXEMBURG

From the reply sent by the Ministry of National Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals service in Luxembourg is restricted to what it is convenient to call "the distribution of milk".

Permanently installed canteens do not exist, the need for them not having arisen.

The costs of the distribution of milk are defrayed by the municipal authorities.

The service is found in most communes in the mining area, but not in other parts of the country.

#### RECIPIENTS

The children who are to benefit from the distribution of milk are designated by social welfare nurses, on the basis of their state of health, but not with reference to their social origin. Children in good health may also partake in the scheme, on written request from their parents. Nearly one-fifth of the children thus benefit.

#### MEALS SERVED

The "distribution of milk" comprises milk and rolls. It takes place after the second morning lesson, and is intended for children of weak health. The rolls are fresh-baked, and the fullcream, pasteurised milk is delivered each morning by the cooperative dairies.

The ration per child is from a quarter to a half litre of milk, and two rolls. A spoonful of honey is added to the milk, if a child so desires. No other beverages are distributed.

The school caretaker is responsible for getting things ready. The milk, poured into bowls, is served by assistant social workers in the bigger towns, and by nuns in places of lesser importance. Teachers and children take no part in the work of distribution.

The service is controlled by the chairman of the local school committee. The school inspector, on the occasion of his visits to the school, takes note of the discipline of the children, and of the cleanliness of premises and utensils.

### CLOTHING

There is no official provision of clothing for schoolchildren in Luxembourg. Clothing and footwear for necessitous children are distributed by the Red Cross, the communal welfare offices, the day nurseries association, and other charitable organisations.



## MONACO

From the reply sent by the Ministry of State

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In Monaco meals are provided at the lycée, under private management. The kitchen and dining-rooms are on the school premises.

The average cost price of a meal is 110 francs.

The service is controlled by the administrative staff of the lycée.

#### RECIPIENTS

Meals are served to all children in the primary and secondary classes, whose parents have so requested.

So far only those children who live far from the lycée have taken advantage of the service. They represent about 5% of total numbers.

They are required to pay for meals. The price is 110 francs for the younger pupils, and 140 francs for the older ones.

#### MEALS SERVED

A mid-day meal, and snacks at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., are offered.

The mid-day meal consists of (a) soup or hors-d'œuvre, (b) meat or fish, (c) vegetables and (d) cheese or sweet.

Children are supervised during meals by an assistant teacher nominated by the administrative staff of the lycée.

Children take no part in the preparing or serving of meals.

#### CLOTHING

There is no provision of clothing in Monaco except for children in the infants' class. It consists of a stock of knickers.

A maid is responsible for these articles.

## NETHERLANDS

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education, Fine Arts and Science

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Social aid to primary school children began fifty years ago in the Netherlands, when the compulsory schooling act of 7th July, 1900, came into force. Its object was to make it possible for children to attend school, whose material conditions would otherwise have prevented them doing so, and from the beginning it covered food and clothing. The ways in which this form of social aid is now given, are set forth in the royal decree dated 4th October, 1947.

Besides what is done by the government, various denominational and other groupings have done and are still doing useful work in this field.

The present report deals only with officially organised school aid to schoolchildren.

The municipalities organise and finance the school meals services, and sometimes subsidise a committee or association to run them directly. As these services depend exclusively on the communes, it is difficult to give the total number of recipients or the total costs for the Netherlands as a whole.

In the towns, meals are prepared in central establishments and then distributed to the schools; in the smaller communes, meals are prepared in the school.

The services are controlled by the municipalities, which sometimes appoint a special committee for the purpose.

#### RECIPIENTS

All primary pupils, who would otherwise be unable to attend school, may partake of school meals. Pupils in upper classes may also partake, but their number is much more limited.

All pupils without discrimination receive milk and vitamin products from time to time.

All school meals are free, except those given in the open-air schools for children weak in health, where parents pay according to their means for the three meals per day served.

## MEALS SERVED

The meal generally served is the mid-day one. The food is a kind of "minestrone" made of potatoes, vegetables, fats and meat in given proportions, and whose calorific content is from 900 to 1100 units per kilo.

The composition of 100 litres of such food is as follows: 90-95 kilos potatoes, 15-35 kilos vegetables, 2-2½ kilos lard, 2½ kilos meat.

A different vegetable is chosen each day. For each day of one week chosen at random from the menus for 1949, it was *sauerkraut* on Monday, *oatmeal* on Tuesday, *spinach* on Wednesday, *hotchpotch* on Thursday, *mashed peas* on Friday, and *endive* on Saturday.

Sometimes a meal consists of oatmeal soup or boiled rice with currants. The former is made up of: *oatmeal*, 7½-9 kilos; *margarine*, 1 kilo; *sugar*, 3 kilos; *milk*, 80 litres. The latter is made up of: *rice*, 10 kilos; *margarine*, 1 kilo; *sugar*, 3 kilos; *currants*, 2 kilos; *milk*, 75 litres.

The meal is supplemented once a week with an egg and fruit or biscuit.

Children help to serve the meals. They are supervised during the meals by teachers or someone specially designated to do so.

## CLOTHING

The statutory provisions covering school meals also deal with the provision of clothing. The value of articles given to any one child may not exceed 40 florins a year.

The articles distributed are, according to need, clothes, underclothes and footwear, and occasionally raincoats.

## NEW ZEALAND

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

In general the provision of meals is not recognized as part of the official school system operating in New Zealand, such a service not having proved to be necessary.

Funds are provided, however, from government sources, for expenditure by primary school committees for various purposes, among which is the supply of materials and equipment for the preparation of hot lunches for pupils. As the effort is a voluntary one on the part of the school committees, not all schools operate such a system, and no statistics are available. There is much wider activity as regards the supply of hot drinks such as cocoa and malted milk, particularly in the winter months, under the control of the headteacher and his assistant, with organised help from the pupils. There is a regular distribution of free milk to schools. In seasons when fruit is available, there is also a fairly widespread distribution of apples at government expense.

At some of the consolidated rural schools, to which children come from outlying districts, voluntary assistance in preparing hot meals is given by parents and other local people.

In Maori schools, facilities are available for the supply of hot malted milk for pupils.

### CLOTHING

In New Zealand the supply of clothing is not an acute problem for parents, as there is a family allowance of 10s. per week for each child up to the age of sixteen (up to eighteen, if still at school), from government funds.

Clothing is thus supplied only in those schools, directly controlled by the education department, where the children are wards of the State and the "Superintendent of Child Welfare" acts in place of the parents.

Schools sponsored by denominational bodies give some assistance in the way of meals and clothing, where circumstances warrant help.



## NORWAY

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Religion and Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The organisation of school meals services in Norway is not enforced by law. Within the limits of their resources, the communes organise and finance them, as and when a need for them arises. It is therefore difficult to give facts and figures concerning the services, for the whole country. All the data given below are for Oslo, which is in the van of progress in this respect, its school meals service dating from 1895.

The school meals service in Oslo is administered in accordance with instructions issued by the town education authority, and within the limits set by the amount budgeted for it. This amount varies according to the number of recipients, and stood at 2,508,000 crowns in 1949-1950. The average cost price of a meal is 51 öre.

Meals are prepared in specially installed central kitchens. There is a regular delivery service between these kitchens and the school dining-rooms. The meals service is controlled by the school medical service.

#### RECIPIENTS

Roughly 82% (21,000-23,000) of children attending primary schools in Oslo receive a daily school meal, and about 1650 children in the continuation classes receive one-third of a litre of milk a day. Distribution is free to all pupils wishing to partake. A free meal is also served to three hundred children in day nurseries, being budgeted for separately in the communal budget, under the heading "subsidies to a social or humanitarian cause".

#### MEALS SERVED

The meal served is the "Oslo Breakfast"<sup>1</sup>. Taking the place of the mid-day meal, it was first introduced in 1931 by the Norwegian professor Carl Schiötz, who was then director of schools. It forms the children's first meal of the day, and comprises some 750 calories. It is served three quarters of an hour before lessons begin, so that about quarter of an

<sup>1</sup> For ingredients, see General Survey, p. 23-24.

hour is left as a break before the children begin work. A teacher supervises the children during this meal.

Professor Schiötz's formula has now been adopted in a number of countries. It is calculated to provide a child with one-third of the calories he requires for a day, and with sufficient vitamins and mineral salts, and also to give teeth and jaws good exercise. It has proved of great nutritional value.

Paid women workers are responsible for the service. Children take no part in either preparing or serving the meal.

## PANAMA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals services in Panama are organised and directed by primary teachers and headmasters, with financial assistance from local tradespeople, parent-teacher associations, and private individuals. At the present time the communes and the government also grant them a subsidy. The government subsidy amounts to 20,000 balboas a year.

With the exception of those operated by the Red Cross, the services are installed on school premises, and often form part of the activities of the domestic science classes.

The services are controlled by the school inspectors, representatives of the parents, and the local authorities.

#### RECIPIENTS

Schools meals services are found in the day nurseries, kindergartens and primary schools, and are now being tried out in some schools at secondary level. A free meal is as a rule restricted to children coming from families of modest means, but is sometimes extended to children who experience transport difficulties in coming to school. Certain schools provide a very simple meal, against payment of 10 to 15 centesimos, to children whose mothers go out to work.

#### MEALS SERVED

Some schools provide a mid-day meal, others breakfast, and yet others milk, porridge or beverages. Food is rarely distributed more than once a day. The Ministry of Education issues instructions on food hygiene through the medium of various publications.

Class teachers and, more often, domestic science mistresses, are responsible for supervising the children during the meals, the school caretaker serves them, and children sometimes help in preparing them.

### CLOTHING

Up to the present time, the provision of clothing for necessitous children has remained in the hands of teachers. They endeavour to secure contributions from private donors. The Ministry of Education is now encouraging the setting up of provision of this kind, and the education authority of the Panama district has already voted a credit of 5,000 balboas for the purpose. Official control of the service is under consideration.

## PERSIA

From the reply sent by the Ministry of National Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

Social aid to necessitous and gifted children is considerably developed in Persia, especially in respect of scholarships. So far as a school meals service is concerned, however, the economic consequences of the second world war were such that the government was obliged to stay the execution of plans it had already drawn up.

### CLOTHING

Clothing is distributed on a fairly wide scale in Persia to pupils whose means are insufficient for their studies, and whose marks are above the average, to pupils, that is to say, who qualify in this way for a scholarship. They receive a complete suit of clothing.

In addition to this government aid, mention should be made of the annual distribution, with support from the Ministry of National Education, of several thousands of suits to necessitous pupils, by the charitable association called the "Lion and Red Sun Organisation".

The recently created "Imperial Organisation of Social Services", in addition to scholarships, gives necessitous gifted children attending primary schools two suits and two pairs of shoes a year.



## PHILIPPINES

From the reply sent by the Department of Foreign Affairs

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals service in the Philippines is in the hands of the central and local school authorities, and of home economics supervisors and teachers. UNICEF<sup>1</sup> also has a scheme in twenty-one schools in twenty-one provinces.

The service is financed by the municipal authorities, with contributions from parent-teacher or other local associations, or by UNICEF, also with some local aid.

Figures for the total cost of the service are not available; the UNICEF scheme costs about 0.10 pesos per child.

The operation of the service is controlled by the school authorities or by the regulations drawn up by UNICEF.

#### RECIPIENTS

A school meals service operates in any primary, intermediate or secondary school which so desires and can establish and finance the scheme.

No data are available as to the total number of children benefiting from the service, but it is low in comparison with the need.

UNICEF lunches, whether in a primary, intermediate or secondary school, are free and are restricted to undernourished children as determined by medical examination. All other children pay for their lunches; in schools below the secondary level, the charge for the uniform simple lunch which is served to all children is usually slightly above the cost.

In practice, wherever a meals service exists, all children benefit from it.

#### MEALS SERVED

So far as the composition of meals is concerned, UNICEF has certain regulations, and uses milk (250 calories per child) in addition to other food. In schools where the educational authorities are responsible for the meals service, there are no special instructions in this connection,

<sup>1</sup> United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

but the aim is to make the meals as nutritious as possible for the price ; home economics teachers have charge of menus ; milk plays little or no part in them.

School lunches in secondary schools are usually in " cafeteria " style, each student choosing and paying for what he wants.

During meals children are generally supervised by teachers or older pupils or students.

Children sometimes take part in preparing and serving meals, especially in the lower grades. In secondary schools, however, practically all such help is paid.

## CLOTHING

There is no government provision of clothing to schoolchildren in the Philippines. Some charitable and other associations distribute clothing to lepers, indigent children and some others. The Red Cross aided some individuals, including possibly some schoolchildren, for a brief time shortly after the end of the war.

## POLAND

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals services in Poland are organised by headmasters in collaboration with the parents' committees, under the supervision of the education authorities.

They are financed by (a) the child welfare department of the Ministry of Education; this department allocates subsidies and apportions among the schools the foodstuffs sent by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; (b) the regional authorities, the majority of which supply foodstuffs; (c) the trade unions and social organisations; and (d) the parents' committees.

Children have their meal in a dining-room or in their classroom, the kitchen being installed in the school.

#### RECIPIENTS

In nursery-infant schools, all children receive school meals. One meal a day is given in 50% of these schools, two meals a day in 30% of them, and three meals a day in the remainder.

One meal a day is given in primary and secondary schools, for those pupils who live some distance from the school, and for those who ask for such meals. In rural schools meals are very often served in winter only. In secondary schools only a small proportion of the pupils take school meals.

Pupils whose parents are not in need, are required to pay the cost of the meals they receive, which varies between 10 and 110 zlotys per pupil per day, according to the number of meals.

#### MEALS SERVED

The mid-day meal consists of a cup of milk or white coffee, with bread, butter, and honey or jam, or a plate of stew or milk soup with bread. To either of these two types of meal, fresh fruit and raw vegetables are added. Cod-liver oil is distributed in winter to children weak in health.

When two meals a day are served, children receive white coffee and bread for breakfast, and soup, vegetables with or without meat, and fresh fruit or raw vegetables for lunch.

The third meal at the nursery-infant schools consists of milk or white coffee, or of stewed fruit, or of bread and fresh fruit.

The same meals are served in the primary schools as in the nursery-infant schools.

In addition to meals, cod-liver oil and dried milk is distributed in secondary schools.<sup>1</sup>

Children are supervised during meals by teachers and members of the parents' committees.

In turn the children help the kitchen staff to serve meals. The gardens of the nursery-infant schools provide fruit and vegetables cultivated by the children.

The school meals services are controlled by the education authorities, the local authorities, the trade unions and the parents' committees. The items thus controlled cover the composition and nutritive value of meals, cleanliness of premises, preparation and serving, and expenditure and general administration.

## CLOTHING

### ORGANISATION

Provision of clothing for necessitous children is organised and financed by the child welfare department of the Ministry of Education, and the social aid sections of the local authorities. The parents' committees and social organisations also make grants and gifts for the purchase of clothing.

There is no provision of this kind for secondary school pupils.

### RECIPIENTS

In the distribution of clothes and footwear, first preference is given to orphaned children, and to children whose parents are receiving social aid. In the years immediately following the war, provision of clothing to nursery-infant children was essential.

### DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of clothing is effected by headmasters, in agreement with the parents' committees.

Heavy overcoats, costumes and boots and shoes are the articles most in demand.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Conferences and exhibitions are organised by the education authorities in order to improve the feeding of children of school age, and to demonstrate how they may be healthily and aesthetically clothed.

<sup>1</sup> Instructions on the feeding of schoolchildren are contained in the Ministry of Education publication: *Wczasy letnie dla dzieci i młodzieży. Obowiązujące przepisy* (Warsaw, Instytut "Nasza Księgarnia", 1949)



## PORTUGAL

From the reply sent by the Ministry of National Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals service in Portuguese primary schools is organised and financed by the government, through the intermediary of the "Mothers' National Education Society", and by certain municipalities, and the parish "juntas" with the assistance of private benefactors.

In secondary establishments (*lycées* and technical schools) a national youth organisation, the *Mocidade Portuguesa*, is responsible for the service.

Such services exist to serve the poorest parts of the country. They are generally installed on school premises, sometimes in independent buildings constructed for the purpose by the government. Under the terms of the "Centenary Plan for the Construction of Primary Schools", 17,000,000 escudos were allocated for the installation of school canteens, and private individuals guaranteed the government sufficient funds for their maintenance.

The total spent on school meals services is about 10,000,000 escudos a year. Some food and fuel are given free by a number of private benefactors.

The service in primary schools is controlled by the general directorate of primary education, through its inspectors and departmental directors, and that in secondary establishments by the general directorate of *lycées* and technical schools.

#### RECIPIENTS

School canteens are most numerous in the primary schools. They are specially intended for necessitous children, and for children who live some distance from the school or whose parents have asked that they may partake.

Meals are generally free. Those children who can afford to do so, pay from one to two escudos per meal, according to district.

Approximately 15% of schoolchildren receive school meals.

#### MEALS SERVED

Only a mid-day meal is served. Its composition varies from one district to another. The school health and hygiene service is studying the question of standard menus for adoption in all canteens.

Teachers are responsible for supervising the children during meals.

In some schools, the children are asked to help in serving the meals.

### CLOTHING

The "Mothers' National Education Society" undertakes various forms of social aid, including the distribution of clothing to necessitous children.

## SALVADOR

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

A school meals service was established in Salvador in 1948. It is organised by the government. 100,000 colons were earmarked for the service in the 1949 general budget. It is operated and controlled by the Ministry of Education.

The cost price of a meal is about 25 centavos, of which 15 centavos are paid by the Ministry and the remainder by the pupil.

#### RECIPIENTS

The service operates as yet only in a certain number of schools, and benefits about 2,500 pupils. The service is to be extended. It is specially intended for undernourished children in the primary schools.

#### MEALS SERVED

A mid-day meal is served. The following are typical menus for a week :

- Monday :* baked rice, beefsteak, salad, milk, fruit ;  
*Tuesday :* roast chicken, baked rice, salad, milk, fruit ;  
*Wednesday :* milk soup, salad, meat rissoles, milk, fruit ;  
*Thursday :* creamed carrots, baked rice, stuffed pimentos, salad, milk, fruit ;  
*Friday :* crayfish with pumpkin seeds, baked rice, salad, milk, fruit.

Menus are varied with different sorts of vegetables (radishes, cress, cabbage, etc.).

The wheat bread of European countries is replaced by *tortilla*, a kind of cake made of maize flour, which is served at every meal.

A school meal is not served on Saturday, as the children are free in the afternoon.

## SPAIN

From the reply sent by the Ministry of National Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

School meals services in Spain are organised only in the larger towns, the need for them not being felt elsewhere. They operate under the name of *comedores escolares*, and are financed by the government, the communes or private associations. For the country as a whole, they cost about 10,000,000 pesetas a year, the average cost of a meal being 4.50 pesetas.

The services are controlled by primary headmasters and inspectors, and are installed in the schools or in premises belonging to the parish.

#### RECIPIENTS

The meals services operate in primary schools and above all in nursery-infant schools. They are intended for children from necessitous families. Recipients number about 80,000.

Meals are generally served free, and only in exceptional cases are children required to pay the cost price.

#### MEALS SERVED

Only a mid-day meal is served, except in certain schools where, on account of the distance of the pupils' homes, breakfast or supper is served in addition. In some nursery-infant schools, the children can take up to three meals a day: breakfast, lunch and tea.

Headmasters make up the daily menus, taking into account the funds available and the nutritive value of the foods. The following is a sample of menus for a week:

- Monday:* soup, stew à la madrilène, meat and tomatoes, dessert.
- Tuesday:* paella (rice cooked with meat, fish, etc.), eggs, dessert.
- Wednesday:* beans, meat rissoles, dessert.
- Friday:* soup, stew, fried fish, dessert.
- Saturday:* roast potatoes, eggs and tomatoes, dessert.

Children are generally supervised during meals by their teachers, and occasionally by a person specially engaged for the purpose. Girls



are asked to help in the kitchen and dining-room, to accustom them to household tasks.

### CLOTHING

Like the meals services, provision of clothing to schoolchildren is organised by the government, the communes and private associations. The government and the municipalities make considerable grants for the purpose, totalling about 4,000,000 pesetas a year.

Such provision is intended for children from families with insufficient means, and in particular for such children in the lower classes at school. Recipients number about 100,000.

Headmasters and ladies engaged in charitable work undertake the distribution of clothing. Footwear, sweaters, trousers, etc., are the articles generally provided.

## SWEDEN

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Religion and Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The school meals services in Sweden are organised by the central directorate of education and the local education authorities.

Expenses are met by the communes, with the part assistance of a government grant of 60 öre (0.60 crowns) per type "A" meal (see below) and slightly less for a meal of the "Oslo Breakfast" type. The government assists also in the purchase of equipment and furniture, the building of premises, and the payment of rent, to an extent depending on the financial resources of each commune.

Meals are generally prepared on school premises. Less frequently they are prepared in a central kitchen and then distributed to the various schools; "milk bars" and boarding houses also exist for the purpose.

In 1948-1949 the government grant for meals and staff salaries amounted to 17,000,000 crowns. The average cost of a meal, including salaries but excluding rent, was 73 öre.

The practical organisation of the meals services is as a rule in the hands of an special committee. Their general operation is controlled by the central directorate of education, the inspector of public primary schools, headmasters and school doctors.

#### RECIPIENTS

Out of a total of 715,000 schoolchildren, 250,000 had free school meals in 1949-1950.

At the present time meals are served in a large number of municipal and rural primary schools and in some secondary and higher schools. It is proposed to extend the services so that meals will be obtainable in all schools throughout the country; this should prove of considerable help to mothers.

In principle all schoolchildren who so wish may receive free school meals, but in practice in recent years, on account of the lack of premises, it has been necessary to give priority to children who live far from the school, who are ill or of weak health, or who through need or for other reasons are unable to get a good lunch at home. In the north of Sweden, all children without exception take school meals.

## MEALS SERVED

The meal served is the mid-day one. It consists of one hot dish, bread-and-butter and one-third of a litre of milk (the type "A" meal) or, provisionally, until suitable premises are available, of porridge, milk or oat soup, or the "Oslo Breakfast". On the advice of the school doctor, children who need them are given vitamin products or mineral salts free.

School meals are deemed to complement the food obtained at home. They are required to be of good quality, low in price, and easy to prepare, and should contain half the daily requirement of albumin, mineral salts and vitamins, and one-third of daily calorific needs.

The following is an autumn list of menus made up according to official instructions :

- Monday :* sausages, cabbage or other vegetable, potatoes.  
*Tuesday :* liver stew, potatoes, cranberry jam or sausage cheese or black pudding with cranberry sauce.  
*Wednesday :* potato and vegetable (onion, spinach, etc.) soup, bread-and-butter and cheese.  
*Thursday :* filleted fish or baked mackerel or herring cheese, potatoes, apples (75 grams) or raw chopped white cabbage, bread-and-butter.  
*Friday :* meat rissoles, potatoes, carrot salad with lemon juice.  
*Saturday :* scrambled eggs, vegetables.

Full-time staff is engaged for the preparation of food (except in the case where it is obtained from a restaurant). Before being appointed they are required to submit a medical certificate, and are medically examined each year by the school doctor. Children are supervised during the meals by teachers, who are thus entitled to a free meal. In some of the larger primary schools such supervision is effected by a small group of teachers who receive supplementary pay, usually in cash, and in self-governing secondary schools, it is effected by the older pupils.

Children do not as a rule help to prepare meals, but they may be asked to lay the table and clear away. Food is generally served at the table, but at some secondary schools a bar system is in use.

## CLOTHING

## ORGANISATION

It is stated in the regulations for primary schools that if parents are unable to meet the expenses entailed in their children's compulsory attendance at school, then the school district should give them assistance to do so from the funds for the purpose administered by the school committees. Such assistance should not be regarded as "poor relief".

The communes earmark certain sums in their budgets for the provision of clothing to primary school children and in certain cases to secondary school children.

Such sums being insufficient, however, fully to meet all needs, societies maintained by the teachers and various social aid associations have been set up for providing clothing to primary school children.

At secondary level, provision of clothing is mainly made by charitable societies.

Family allowances at the rate of 260 crowns per child per year were instituted on 1st January, 1948, and the need for clothing assistance has since diminished.

### RECIPIENTS

An inquiry made in 1944-1945, covering 105,950 primary school children (roughly 20% of their total), revealed that about 15% of all primary school children had benefited from the provision of clothing, and that the average grant for the purpose per child per annum amounted to 38 crowns.

### DISTRIBUTION

Stockings and footwear are the articles most frequently distributed, followed by suits for the boys and dresses and coats for the girls.

Parents wishing to get clothing aid for their children are required to send an application, approved by the teacher and giving details of their material circumstances, to the school committee.

The system in the smaller places, as at Mariestad, for example, is for the school committee to appoint a clothing grants committee to deal with the parents' applications. The grants committee then makes an arrangement with a shop to provide clothing and footwear of a certain quality at certain prices. The committee then issues coupons for presentation at this shop, to those parents whose applications have been accepted.

It is more difficult in the larger towns to determine the material circumstances of parents, and the details they provide in this connection are checked by the school committee.



## SWITZERLAND

From the replies sent by the cantonal Departments of Education

### Basel-Town

#### SCHOOL MEALS

##### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Basel-Town has no school canteens proper. School meals are organised and financed by the cantonal school aid office (*Schulfürsorgeamt*) on the premises of non-alcoholic restaurants.

The service costs about 28,000 Sw. francs a year, of which 24,500 Sw. francs are paid by the cantonal authorities. The cost of a meal is 1.65 Sw. francs. The cantonal authorities also pay part of the cost of the distribution of pasteurised milk, its contribution in 1948 amounting to 5,000 Sw. francs.

##### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service is for primary and secondary school children from families of modest means. Their parents are asked to pay amounts varying according to their means. In 1948, 16,800 meals were served to 85 pupils.

Pasteurised milk is distributed in schools of all levels to all pupils who wish to have it. They all pay for whatever amount they drink, except necessitous children, who enjoy a reduction in price, which is made good by the contribution from the canton. Over 10,000 pupils received milk in this way in 1948.

##### MEALS SERVED

No special instructions have been issued concerning the composition of school meals, but the menus of the meals for schoolchildren, at the non-alcoholic restaurants, are controlled.

In addition to the mid-day meal and the milk, nursery class children receive a free snack at the *Abendhorten* (meeting places, open after school hours, for children whose mothers go out to work).

Children are supervised during the meals by an official of the cantonal school aid office or some other suitable person. Children take no part in the preparing or serving of meals.

## CLOTHING

The cantonal school aid office, in collaboration with a private institution, is also responsible for the provision of clothing. Such provision is financed jointly by the two bodies. Some 10,000 children coming from the primary and secondary schools (up to the eighth year of schooling) and belonging to families of limited means, benefit from the scheme. In 1948, 1,838 garments, 899 pairs of leather shoes or boots, and 21 pairs of clogs were distributed.

Officials of the cantonal school aid office, including one social worker, are responsible for the choice and distribution of articles of clothing.

A body called the *Schülertuch*, with special funds, also provides cloth for making clothes for necessitous children. It helped 523 children in this way in 1948.

## Bern

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Topographically, the canton of Bern is very varied, especially as between the mountainous districts and the urban or semi-urban areas. The organisation of the school meals service is therefore in the hands of the municipalities, in order that it may conform to the varying local needs.

Part of the cost of the service is met by the cantonal authorities, and in some cases by private associations, but the communes themselves are responsible for the greater part of it. The total cost of the service for the whole canton cannot be precisely estimated, but it amounts to many hundreds of Swiss francs a year, of which 60,000 Sw. francs come from the cantonal authorities.

If the premises are suitable, a special kitchen may be found in the school itself, but very often the food is prepared by the school caretaker, or the wife of one of the teachers.

The operation of the service is controlled by the communal bodies (the school committee or the teachers' committee). In the majority of communes, the service functions only during the winter months.

#### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service mainly benefits children who attend primary schools and are in need of help or who live far from the school. Other children, however, are welcome to take part, especially as regards the distribution of milk.

Meals are entirely free for necessitous children; other children are asked to pay a small charge.

### MEALS SERVED

A mid-day meal is generally served in the mountainous districts, while in the towns and semi-urban areas milk and bread, and often ovaltine or other nourishing drink, are usually served during the course of the day.

### CLOTHING

The provision of clothing is organised in much the same way as the school meals service, and financed by the same bodies, but is more strictly limited to necessitous children.

The cantonal contribution amounts to 20,000 Sw. francs a year.

Clothes, underclothes, boots and shoes, socks, handkerchiefs, cloth and knitting wool are the articles most frequently distributed.

## Geneva

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The first "kitchens" for primary school children in the canton of Geneva were set up in 1887 on the initiative of a group of philanthropists, and even at the present time, each "kitchen" operates in each locality as an independent, private association of public utility, with funds deriving from the contributions of its members, private gifts in cash or kind, and subsidies from the canton. These various associations are grouped together in the *Fédération des Cuisines scolaires du Canton de Genève* (Canton of Geneva School Kitchens Federation).

In the school year 1948-1949 these associations together spent some 86,000 Sw. francs, of which 12,000 Sw. francs were covered by cantonal subsidy. Supervisors' wages were also paid by the canton.

Meals are generally provided in the schools themselves, ample space being reserved for a kitchen and a dining-room.

The committee of each kitchen is required to submit to the Department of Education a yearly statistical and financial statement, on the basis of which the cantonal subsidy is duly apportioned.

The average cost price of a meal is one Sw. franc.

In the case of secondary and vocational schools, a school meals service has existed only since 1946. It operates under the name of the *Table des grands* (the older children's table), which is also a state-aided private body. The cantonal subsidy in 1948, in addition to the payment of supervisors' wages, amounted to 2,000 Sw. francs. The *Table des grands* does not possess its own premises, but arranges with a non-alcoholic restaurant to provide the meals and a room where the pupils may eat and remain during the lunch hour.

## RECIPIENTS

Any necessitous child of primary school age (six to thirteen or fifteen) may eat at a school "kitchen". Distance of the home from the school is not of much importance, as there is a "kitchen" in each quarter or commune. Account is taken, however, of mothers who go out to work. Children are designated as the result of discreet inquiry. In order that any suggestion of "charity" may be avoided, they are asked to pay a small sum varying between 20 and 50 centimes, but in actual practice 75% of the meals are provided free. In 1948-1949, about 400 children out of 12,650 benefited from the service.

The *Table des grands*, on the other hand, is for secondary and vocational school children coming from families of modest means. Distance from the home is also taken into account, as such schools are not established in all quarters or communes. The restaurant in which they take the meals charges 2.50 Sw. francs per head. After inquiries have been made into their family circumstances, some of the children designated pay the whole of this sum, others pay nothing.

## MEALS SERVED

The mid-day meal served in the school "kitchens" consists of soup and a vegetable every day, meat three times a week, and a dessert most days.

Meals are prepared by paid staff, served voluntarily in turn by the members of the "kitchen" association, and supervised by teachers or student-teachers paid to do so by the Department of Education.

Children take no part in the preparation of meals, but the smaller girls help with clearing away, washing up, etc.

The menu of the *Table des grands* is that of the restaurant.

## CLOTHING

The provision of clothing to schoolchildren is organised and financed by the cantonal authorities. The latter spend 20,000 Sw. francs a year on the service, and the City of Geneva contributes a further 3,000 Sw. francs.

The children assisted attend infant and primary schools. Their number fluctuates from year to year according to general economic conditions; it was 412 children out of a total of 13,724 in 1944, 335 out of 12,366 in 1945, 276 out of 12,411 in 1946, 248 out of 13,861 in 1947, and 221 out of 14,697 in 1948.

Parents are required to send a written request to the teachers, who pass on the request with their recommendations to the school social service attached to the Department of Education. The Department then makes inquiry into the material circumstances of the parents, and also into their attitude to the school and into the children's conduct.



Parents who are foreigners or who originate from other cantons in Switzerland, must have lived for a certain number of years in Geneva in order that their children may be eligible.

The clothes and footwear distributed are always new. The purchase of articles is made by the directress of the school social service with the assistance of a technical directress; distribution is effected by the latter.

## Neuchâtel

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In each of the communes of Neuchâtel, the distribution of food in schools is organised by the school committee (a communal body) or a local charitable association. It is financed by the municipality, or sometimes by a charitable association. In the latter case, the municipality grants a subsidy which in recent years has amounted to one half of the expenses incurred on behalf of necessitous children. In the winter of 1948-1949, the total of such expenses was 7,200 Sw. francs. Mention should also be made of the sums spent on the distribution of food to other children who, although not in need, pay only part of the cost.

The average price of a full meal varies between 1.50 Sw. francs and 2.50 Sw. francs, and that of a milk soup between 8 and 15 centimes.

In most cases the food is served on the school premises, occasionally in boarding or private houses.

Control is exercised by the organising bodies. Each year they submit a statement of accounts to the cantonal authorities.

#### RECIPIENTS

The service is mainly organised for primary school children. All children generally receive milk or ovaltine; and those among them who, on account of distance from the school or bad weather, are unable to go home, have the mid-day meal.

All children coming from families of modest means receive food free of charge; other children pay part of the cost at prices fixed by the organising bodies.

#### MEALS SERVED

No official instructions exist concerning the composition of school meals, and the type of food provided varies according to local conditions. In some cases a complete mid-day meal is given, while elsewhere milk, tea and bread, soup or beverages are distributed.

For eight years, mainly during the war, children in schools at all levels were given vitamin tablets.

In domestic science schools providing school meals, the girls are required to help with the work such provision entails.

## CLOTHING

Formerly the cantonal authorities subsidised the provision of clothing to necessitous children, by welfare societies. Some years ago, however, the procedure was changed, and at the present time headmasters and inspectors, in collaboration with teachers, make discreet inquiry as to which children should be supplied with clothing. On the basis of what they suggest, the cantonal Department of Education grants the necessary funds for the purchase of clothing. In the winter of 1947-1948, some 21,000 Sw. francs were spent for this purpose.

The children helped in this way come from families of restricted means, or in difficulty through exceptional circumstances (such as illness, or loss of the breadwinner), and are almost invariably attending a primary school (six to fifteen), of whose population they represent from 3% to 5%.

The articles provided include clothes and underclothes, and in many cases good shoes or boots.

Purchases are made by the teachers or by a member of the school committee, the bills being met by the Department of Education.

## Ticino

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The organisation of the school meals service in the Canton of Ticino is in the hands of (a) the school committee or the commune in the case of nursery-infant schools, (b) the commune in the case of certain junior primary (6 to 11) and senior primary (11 to 14) schools, (c) the canton in the case of the pre-vocational (*avviamento professionale*) classes (14 to 15), the apprenticeship courses, and the cantonal *lycée*.

The service is also financed by these bodies. The communes receive considerable financial assistance from the canton, which contributes 61,400 Sw. francs a year (excluding the cantonal contribution to the boarding expenses of the normal school).

The cost price (in Sw. francs) of meals in the various categories of schools, and the share of it borne by the canton, commune and parents, are as follows :

School	Cost Price	Canton	Commune	Parents
Nursery-infant . . . . .	0.70	—	0.40	0.30
Primary . . . . .	0.60	0.40	0.10	0.10
Pre-vocational . . . . .	0.60	0.40	—	0.20
Apprenticeship . . . . .	0.60	0.40	—	0.20
Lycée . . . . .	2.00	—	—	2.00

Control is exercised by the canton through its inspectors.

#### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service was established for the benefit—the nursery-infant schools apart—of pupils living too far from the school to be able to return home at mid-day. All such pupils are eligible, without regard to the material circumstances of their parents.

A total of about 3,600 children partake of school meals.

#### MEALS SERVED

Only a mid-day meal is served, except in the nursery-infant schools, where a snack is given in addition during the course of the afternoon.

The only children who take any part in the preparation of meals are the girls in the pre-vocational schools.

Children are supervised during meals by a person specially charged to do so or by a teacher.

### Zurich

#### SCHOOL MEALS

##### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The meals service for children attending primary and secondary schools in the canton of Zurich is organised and administered by the local primary and secondary school authorities (*Primar- und Sekundarschulgemeinden*) respectively, and financed by them with cantonal aid. The cantonal contribution, authorised by the law dated February 2nd, 1919, is determined in accordance with the financial resources of each commune. The schools meals service cost a total of 100,000 Sw. francs in 1948.

The meals are generally given in the school itself. The service is inspected by the school authorities.

### RECIPIENTS

The school meals service is for children of compulsory school age (compulsory schooling lasts eight or nine years in Zurich), and is as a rule restricted to those of them who come from families of modest means or who live far from the school. Certain schools, however, make a practice of giving meals to all children without distinction, more especially as regards the milk distributed at the breaks.

Children pay or not for the meals, according to the resources of their parents.

### MEALS SERVED

The type of meal served depends on local circumstances, and varies from one commune to another. It may consist simply of milk at break-time, or of breakfast, or of a complete mid-day meal.

There are no general instructions concerning the composition of meals, this being a matter of local responsibility.

Primary teachers, nursery-infant mistresses, and school caretakers or other auxiliary staff are responsible for supervising and serving meals. Children sometimes help to serve or to wash up.

### CLOTHING

The provision of clothing to children of compulsory school age is organised and financed by the same authorities as are responsible for the school meals service, with in some cases the assistance of private individuals.

Such provision costs 70,000 Sw. francs a year.

Aid is forthcoming for cases of proved necessity. The main articles provided consist of boots and shoes, clothes and spectacles.



## THAILAND

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Canteens proper, wherever they exist in schools in Thailand, are under the supervision of the headmaster, but the school authorities are not responsible for providing the food. The students bring their own food, or buy it from merchants in the school. The headmaster sees to it that food sold in this way is clean, wholesome and fairly priced, and that drinking water is available and clean.

The only exceptions are the kindergartens, where the school authorities provide the meals, but the parents bear the cost, amounting to about one tical per meal.

#### MEALS SERVED

In most schools, there is a break at mid-day for lunch. In the kindergartens there is in addition a light meal or milk at about 10 a.m., and another light meal at 3 p.m. before the school day is over.

Typical elements of the national diet of Thailand, which is naturally reflected in the composition of school meals, are rice with eggs, meat, and plenty of fresh vegetables.

School servants are responsible for serving and clearing away school meals. Children give a hand only in the girls' secondary schools, where cooking is part of the curriculum.

### CLOTHING

There is no official provision of clothing in Thailand. In times of scarcity and high prices, however, as after the war, the government helps from time to time to procure low-priced clothing for children.

## TURKEY

From the reply sent by the Ministry of National Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

School meals in Turkey are organised and financed by the "Red Crescent Society", the "Society for the Protection of Children", and other charitable associations, including the small local organisations formed by the parent-teacher associations.

The service is generally installed on the school premises, and is controlled by the school doctors.

#### RECIPIENTS

The school meals services operate in primary and secondary schools, and are intended exclusively for necessitous children. A mid-day meal is served.

Some boarding-houses exist, where pupils may buy meals.

The total number of children benefiting from the meals services is not known.

#### MEALS SERVED

Every endeavour is made to ensure that at each meal pupils receive the required number of calories.

During meals, the children and serving staff are supervised by teachers. Children help to serve and clear away.

### CLOTHING

The provision of clothing for schoolchildren is organised and financed by the parent-teacher associations and the local branches of the "Society for the Protection of Children". Other charitable associations also give assistance.

Necessitous children are helped in this way, receiving clothes and footwear.

## UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

From the reply sent by the National Bureau of Educational and Social Research

### SCHOOL MEALS

A school meals service exists throughout South Africa, on the basis of the "National School Feeding Scheme" issued by the Union Department of Education. The education department of each province organises and administers the service within its own territory, with the help of funds from the Union government.

The information given here applies to the whole of the Union. For the particular way in which the "National Feeding Scheme" is applied, reference may be made to the sections coming under the heading of each province.

An initial amount of 5s. per pupil is allowed by each provincial authority, for installation costs, and 1s. per pupil per annum for depreciation.

Meals are always served at the school itself, and wherever possible a kitchen is installed.

Only one meal per day is provided, as a rule at the interval in the middle of the morning (school hours are usually in one session in South Africa, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., with breaks totalling half an hour). Meals should be rich in protein, vitamins and mineral salts. They are free, and not confined to necessitous children.

The "National School Feeding Scheme" is not considered a charitable scheme, but a sincere attempt to increase the resistance of all children in primary classes to disease by supplying them with protective foods.

Children generally take no part in preparing or serving the meals.

The "National School Feeding Scheme" provides for European and Coloured (including Indian) pupils in State and State-aided primary schools. Private schools do not participate in the scheme.

There are special regulations covering the school meals service in native primary schools.

### Cape Province

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The Education Department of Cape Province issues instructions to schools on the application of the "National School Feeding Scheme", on which approximately £500,000 a year is spent, representing 2d. per day per child.

The scheme is controlled at each school by a committee, the principal of the school being a member. Accounts are audited by the provincial

authorities, and schools are visited periodically by the education department dieticians with a view to ascertaining whether the scheme is working satisfactorily and the proper foods being obtained.

### RECIPIENTS

Infant and nursery schools, although subsidised by the education department, do not take part in the feeding scheme, as they are regarded as private institutions.

Some 249,200 children benefit from the service, out of a total (primary and secondary) school population of 329,200.

### MEALS SERVED

Detailed instructions are issued concerning the nature, quality and quantity of the food to be provided. Special emphasis is laid on the protective foods, the most important of which are fresh, full-cream milk, vegetables and raw fruits. Cheese, butter or peanut butter, bread or porridge made from unrefined cereals, and concentrated vitamin A and C products are also provided.

The full responsibility of serving the meals falls on the teachers.

## Natal

### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Instructions concerning the school meals service are issued by the Natal Department of Education. The service costs approximately £123,000 per annum.

There are two types of meal, costing 6d. and 3d. respectively.

The running of the service is controlled by a European organiser, who is responsible for the general administration of the scheme, and also travels to schools inspecting the actual operation of the service.

### RECIPIENTS

As in the other provinces, the scheme is available to all children (European, coloured and Indian) in all primary classes. The ordinary meal served is the 3d. one. Certain European schools, however, provide the 6d. meal (a special two-course meal of high nutritive value) for necessitous children, or on payment of 6d. to other children.

Out of a total (primary and secondary) school population of 90,013, as many as 70,471 children take part.

### MEALS SERVED

The official instructions concerning meals are as follows :

1) Meals shall be nutritious, attractive, varied, and so carefully planned that there shall be no left-overs. Left-overs, if any, must be served later. Hot meals must be eaten while still hot.



- 2) All meals served shall comply with the following standard types :
- (a) meat, one starchy vegetable, one green vegetable, bread and cocoa ;
  - (b) meat, one starchy vegetable, and one raw salad or stewed fruit.

A culinary assistant prepares the meals, and the principal or teacher on duty supervises the children during the serving of meals.

## Orange Free State

### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

In the Orange Free State the school meals service is organised by the local feeding committee. £67,500 a year is spent on the service, a meal costing about 2½d.

Financial statements concerning the service, supported by detailed accounts and receipts, have to be submitted by each school at the end of each school quarter.

The service is checked by medical and school inspectors, school nurses, and local inspections.

### RECIPIENTS

Out of a total (primary and secondary) school population of nearly 46,000, some 36,300 pupils partake of school meals. The privilege is extended to subsidised nursery schools.

### MEALS SERVED

Advice and information regarding the preparation and choice of food are from time to time supplied to schools by the school medical staff. The following is the type of balanced menu which is recommended :

Milk (½ pint) or cocoa or soup ;

A slice of bread-and-butter, fresh fruit (3 ozs) or dried fruit (1 oz) or cheese (1 oz) or raw vegetables (e.g., lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, etc.).

## Transvaal

### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The "National School Feeding Scheme" is organised in Transvaal by local feeding committees. The service costs £480,000 a year. Two types of meals are supplied, a supplementary meal costing 3d. and a full meal costing 6d. Feeding inspectors have been appointed to audit the books of the feeding committees and to report on the feeding in general. The medical inspection staff and dieticians supervise the feeding arrangements from the point of view of nutrition.

### RECIPIENTS

Out of a total (primary and secondary) school population of 223,000, 149,000 children partake of meals. Subsidised nursery schools may participate in the scheme.

The 3d. meal is available to all primary school children. The full meal at 6d. is served to children who are not getting sufficient food at home, are suffering from malnutrition, or come long distances to school. Neither type of meal should be regarded as replacing any meal given at home.

### MEALS SERVED

The 3d. meal consists of milk ( $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint), and one or two varieties of fruit. If milk is not available, it may be replaced by cheese ( $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 oz), one egg, or fish; these may be varied by giving nuts or shelled and roasted peanuts (1 to 2 ozs) once or twice a week.

The 6d. meal consists of milk ( $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint), one or two varieties of fruit, and one first-class protein (such as fish, cheese, eggs or meat).

Instructions from the Transvaal Education Department forbid the serving of certain things, such as tinned fruit, commercial ice cream, vitamin A and D caramels, and sweets of any description.

The local feeding committee is responsible for the serving of food-stuffs, with assistance from the teachers.

### CLOTHING

Where parents of children attending State vocational schools (established under Act 29 of 1928) are unable to clothe them, the required clothing is provided by the Union Department of Education. Of the 3,700 (exclusively European) children attending these schools (commercial high, technical high, and housecraft high), approximately 50% were in receipt of free clothing in 1949.

No provision of clothing is made by the provincial education departments. Private charitable organisations situated throughout the country arrange *inter alia* for such provision to indigent persons of all ages.

The provision of clothing does not present a great problem in South Africa, thanks to the family allowances and maintenance grants made to persons of modest means by the Department of Social Welfare.

## NATIVE SCHOOL FEEDING SCHEME

### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The Department of Education, Arts and Science took over, on 1st April, 1945, from the Department of Social Welfare, the "Native School Feeding Scheme" in force throughout the Union. In Natal the scheme

is administered by the provincial authorities, although the above-mentioned Department supplies the funds.

The scheme as it now operates must be regarded as provisional, pending the report of the commission of inquiry on the provision of supplementary food to children.

For the financial year 1950-1951, an amount of £560,000 was made available for the scheme.

Ten European organisers of the scheme are responsible for the general organisation of the scheme in all provinces except Natal, and they are assisted by local feeding committees, whom they visit regularly in order to exercise control over their finances and to ensure that the quality of the food is in keeping with the Department's requirements. In Natal, the scheme is administered by the provincial authorities, under a European organiser assisted by five native supervisors.

Regulations concerning the "Native School Feeding Scheme" are contained in the circular letter dated 3rd September, 1949, sent by the Department to all native school feeding committees.

#### RECIPIENTS

The native schools feeding service is available to all children between the ages of six and fourteen in State, State-aided and private schools, excluding children attending schools on European farms.

Provision has been made for the period 1950-1951 for over 500,000 children out of a total (primary and secondary) school population of about 750,000.

#### MEALS SERVED

Children receive one meal per day. Although the funds available are limited, every effort is made to provide a well-balanced protective meal, as described in the Department of Social Welfare circular: "The Protective Meal".

#### CLOTHING FOR NATIVES

No provision of clothing is made to children attending native schools by the provincial authorities. Family allowances and maintenance grants are in some cases available for natives, and natives of all ages may be granted relief for a temporary difficulty (caused, for example, by inability through illness to earn money), under arrangements made by the Department of Native Affairs.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### England and Wales

From the reply sent by the Ministry of Education

#### SCHOOL MEALS

##### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The Education Act of 1944 (Section 49) requires the Minister of Education to make regulations imposing upon Local Education Authorities the duty of providing milk, meals and other refreshments to pupils attending schools maintained by them. These regulations were issued on the 6th June, 1945, under the title "The Provision of Milk and Meals Regulations, 1945".

Until 31st March, 1947, the school meals service was financed by Local Education Authorities, who received government grant upon their expenditure at percentage rates varying from 70% to 90%. Then, as from 1st April, 1947, in recognition of the fact that the school meals service is supplementary to the social security scheme for family allowances, a change was made in the grant system, the effect of which is that the government subvention in aid of the cost of school dinners has been raised to a level which will meet in full the reasonable net expenditure which Authorities incur on the provision. The government subvention is limited to the reasonable net cost per meal as fixed annually by the Minister for each area after consultation with the Authority. The regulations governing this subvention are contained in "The Education (Local Education Authorities) Grant Regulations, 1948" and its amendments.

The estimated gross cost of the school meals service in 1949-1950 is £35,900,000, and the estimated net cost is £25,700,000. The difference between gross and net figures is accounted for by payments received from pupils and teachers. The average cost of school dinners is estimated to be 1s.1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. gross and 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. net in 1949-1950.

The "Milk in Schools Scheme" is administered separately from the school meals service; its estimated cost in 1949-1950 was £8,250,000 (including just on £750,000 for private school pupils).

The school meals service is conducted in premises of great diversity, as the service has grown rapidly during the war and post-war period when building has been restricted. The new schools now being built and some schools built fifteen to twenty years before 1939 have a kitchen as an integral part of their premises, from which meals can be served direct into a dining-room. This is the long-term aim for most schools. Meanwhile the widespread extension of the service has been made possible,



partly by the establishment of central kitchens, in existing buildings or in buildings specially erected for the purpose, from which meals are transported to schools where the pupils take their meal in a prefabricated hutment dining-room or in the school hall or even with table cloths on their desks; partly by the conversion of school accommodation, which may or may not be conveniently spared for the purpose, into a kitchen and less frequently a dining-room; and partly by the erection of prefabricated hutment canteens in the playground or on spare land adjoining the school, where the meal is cooked and served direct to the pupils. In spite of these measures, there are still some 2,000 schools where the service does not yet operate owing to lack of accommodation.

The running of the service is controlled by the Local Education Authorities. It is inspected by H.M. Inspectors working for the Ministry of Education, who in effect exercise some control over the running costs of the service through the comments they make on Local Education Authorities' estimates for the purpose of fixing their grant—the Authorities are anxious to secure full reimbursement of their expenditure and therefore normally modify practices which are criticised by the Ministry as involving unreasonable expenditure which will not be covered by grant if they are continued.

#### RECIPIENTS

All children in primary (infant and junior) and secondary schools, whose parents wish them to have school dinner, are eligible. As already indicated, however, there are about 2,000 schools which are still waiting for canteen facilities, and many of the existing canteens are not large enough, or the supply of meals from the kitchen cannot be increased sufficiently, to satisfy the full demand. Where it is in consequence necessary to place some restriction upon the number who stay to school dinner, it is customary to give preference to necessitous children, those who have the longest journey to reach their home, and those whose mothers go out to work.

The government's declared intention is to make school dinners free, but it is not practicable to do this until all the children whose parents want them to have dinner at school can do so. Otherwise there will be a demand for monetary compensation where the canteen cannot provide for all the children. A charge is thus still made for school meals. The charges for dinners range from 4d to 6d. The charge may not in any case exceed the cost of the food put into the meal. It may be remitted entirely where financial hardship would be involved for the parent in making the payment.

In June, 1949, nearly 2,750,000 pupils (51·52%) out of a total of about 5,250,000, had dinner at school. Over 4,500,000 children (87·89%) were having milk in school in the same month: milk has been entirely free since August, 1946.

#### MEALS SERVED

The mid-day meal is the main function of the school canteens. The duties of Authorities include the service of "other meals and refresh-

ments", but many have judged it unnecessary to make such provision from their canteens. Teas for secondary pupils who stay behind for school clubs and games represent the main load of "other meals and refreshments", but they account for less than 1% of the total cost of the service.

Tonics, cod liver oil and orange juice are provided by the "Health Service". As mentioned above, the distribution of milk is also a separate service; children in nursery schools and certain special schools receive two-thirds of a pint of milk daily, other children one-third.

General guidance as to the nutritional target to be aimed at for school dinners was given to Local Education Authorities in the early days of the expansion of the "School Meals Service". Board of Education Circular 1571 of 1941 sets out the nutritional standard as 1,000 calories for children over eleven, 750 for children under eleven, and 660 for children under eight. The first-class protein content aimed at is 20-25 grams, plus 30 grams of fat. The circular indicates the commodities necessary to attain this nutritional level, and it has been the aim of the Ministry of Food in determining the rations for schools to make it possible for the standard to be maintained. The most difficult factor is the first-class protein, because of the restricted supplies of meat and the difficulty of obtaining good protein substitutes for it.

The following are samples of actual menus served during one week chosen at random:

Egg and bacon pie, carrots, mashed potatoes, lemon semolina and jam.

Steamed minced roll, mixed vegetables and mashed swedes, bread, orange jelly and custard.

Roast meat, greens, potatoes, steamed college pudding and custard.

Cornish pie or pasties, raw salad, rycetti pudding.

Cold meat, salad, mashed potatoes, jam, treacle or lemon curd tart, and custard.

The responsibility for serving rests with the school meals staff (cook supervisor, or cook-in-charge, and kitchen helpers), who are appointed by the Local Education Authorities and are not technically under the jurisdiction of the head of the school. The supervision of the children is the responsibility of the teachers, as specified in Article 14 of the "Provision of Milk and Meals Regulations, 1945". Teachers are entitled to have school dinner free on the days when they undertake supervision duties. On other days, they may have school dinner on payment of the gross cost, provided they are not keeping a child out of the canteen by so doing.

In primary schools, particularly the small ones, supervisory duties were found to be falling so heavily on the staff that a system of supervisory assistants to the teachers has been evolved (by a "Working Party" representing Local Education Authorities and the teachers' associations; details of the scheme are given in the Ministry of Education Circular 97 of April, 1946). These assistants usually work for only 1½ or 2 hours a day, and it is therefore work which appeals to mothers with children at school, who cannot undertake a full day's work but are glad to do this job and to earn a little money.

The children take no part in the preparation of the meals, but they may help to put up tables and arrange chairs in some cases. A few areas

still organise their canteens on a "cafeteria" basis, but the Ministry deprecates this, and most Authorities agree that such a system makes it difficult for the canteen to give the social training generally recognised to be an important function. For older children what is called the "family service" is being increasingly adopted. This involves two children from a table of eight fetching plates and dishes of food and serving for their table. For younger children the "waitress service" is still the normal arrangement; the kitchen staff doing the serving and two pupils from each table acting as waitresses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The Ministry of Education has drawn up a set of standard plans for central kitchens, canteens and dining-rooms with sculleries, and also a catalogue of canteen equipment for all types of kitchen and canteen.

For some years now equipment for the "School Meals Service" has been obtained through central purchase by the government. Local Education Authorities send their orders to the Ministry of Education, which arranges with the Ministry of Works for the goods to be delivered direct from the maker to the canteen. This arrangement is unlikely to continue indefinitely, but it has saved the Authorities from competing in the market during the period of acute shortages.

#### CLOTHING

Local Education Authorities have a power but not a duty, under Section 5 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1948, to provide clothing for schoolchildren. They have also a power, under Section 81 of the Education Act, 1944, to provide distinctive clothing (i.e., school uniforms, etc.) for schoolchildren. Expenditure on clothing is eligible for grant from the Ministry of Education, as set forth in the "Provision of Clothing Regulations, 1948" and in Circular 183 of October 1948.

Such expenditure, however, does not require specific approval from the Ministry of Education, and thus no figures are available of the number of children who benefit from the provision, or of the annual expenditure.

Children who are eligible to benefit from the provision of clothing may come from any educational institution maintained or otherwise by the Authority, including special schools, nursery-infant schools, etc.

The above-mentioned "Regulations" also lay down the circumstances in which a right of property or of user in the clothing is acquired. No payment is asked of parents if only the right of user is conferred. If the clothing provided, however, becomes the property of the pupil, then the Local Education Authorities are empowered to require the parent to pay for it, provided financial hardship is not so caused and that the price asked does not exceed the cost.

The kind of clothing most frequently distributed is not known, but there appears to be considerable provision, on a user basis, of clothing for physical training.



## UNITED STATES

From the reply sent by the U.S. Office of Education

### SCHOOL MEALS

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

The educational system of the United States, like that of Switzerland, is not administered by one central authority, but by each state within its own frontiers. The available information concerning school meals services is thus of a very general character.

Certain types of school meals have been provided in some parts of the United States for more than fifty years. The first major reason for providing them was that many children, especially those attending high schools, lived some distance from the school, and needed an opportunity to supplement or procure all of their mid-day meal through purchase at or near the school. The solution usually adopted was that of a "cafeteria" on the school premises, maintained entirely from the proceeds of lunches sold. Such lunches were, of course, provided at cost, and in most cases the lunchroom itself and its equipment were paid for out of school funds derived from taxation.

The second major reason for providing school lunches was "to provide a hot dish at noon". This type of lunch was at first provided chiefly in the consolidated schools to which the children were brought through transportation. The single dish was soon supplemented with additional dishes, and reasonably complete meals began to be provided.

It is thus evident that school lunches in the United States were not originally provided on the basis of need or inability to pay, or to supplement faulty diets or overcome undernourishment.

In more recent years, however, from about 1935, school lunches became associated with welfare and relief. There were many unemployed women at that time and large supplies of surplus agricultural commodities, and plans were made to create a market for the commodities, and to employ the women in preparing and serving meals, in the schools.

Then, when unemployment largely ceased and farm surpluses were greatly reduced, at the onset of the second world war, new means had to be found of facilitating school lunches or the service discontinued. As a means of stimulating and broadening the consumption of agricultural commodities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1944 began indemnifying schools in cash, on a per-pupil basis, for expenditure on school lunches.

This use of federal funds was challenged by the Congress as unauthorised, but was legalised in 1946 by legislation now known as the



'National School Lunch Act'. This act provided more than \$75,000,000 a year to indemnify schools for expenditure incurred in "the establishment, maintenance, operation and expansion of non-profit school lunch programs". States are required to contribute to the scheme as much as they receive in aid, and their contribution is to be increased in 1951. The total aid is apportioned to the states according to the number of children between the ages of five and seventeen, and the state *per capita* income as related to that of the United States.

From time to time the U.S. Department of Agriculture has foods available for use by schools, through its programmes for the direct distribution of farm surpluses.

#### RECIPIENTS

As mentioned above, the "National School Lunch Act" (article 9) apportions federal aid for school meals services in part according to the number of children between the ages of five and seventeen. In 1948 this number amounted to roughly 22.6% of the school population.

The development of school meals services under the aegis of federal aid obviously does not give a complete picture of the school meals system. A great many schools continue to operate their school lunch programmes without the assistance of federal funds, and approximately half of the school lunch activities in the United States are carried on independently of the "National School Lunch Program".

Wherever meals are federally aided, the lunch provided must be available to all children in the school regardless of their ability to pay, and without discrimination.

#### MEALS SERVED

In any school receiving federal aid under the terms of the "National School Lunch Act", three types of meal are found:

*Type A.* This is a full lunch consisting of:

- (1) a half-pint of whole milk as beverage,
- (2) two ounces of lean meat, poultry, fish or cheese, or one egg, or half a cupful of dry beans or peas, or four tablespoonfuls of peanut butter.
- (3) three-quarters of a cupful of vegetables or fruits or both,
- (4) one or more portions of bread or muffins or other hot bread made of whole-grain cereal or enriched flours,
- (5) two teaspoonfuls of butter or fortified margarine.

*Type B.* This type of meal may be served if the school does not possess the facilities to prepare and serve a complete meal. Nutritionally it is equal to two-thirds of the Type A meal, and is intended to be supplemented by food brought from home.

*Type C.* This type of meal may be chosen by schools having no lunchroom facilities at all. It consists of a half-pint of whole milk as beverage.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Great impetus has been given to the development of school lunches through the participation of the federal government. Much more effort is now made, moreover, to make the school lunch an educational as well as a nutritional aid. More and more it is being recognised that it can be a major activity through which children can learn much concerning the selection, preparation, serving and eating of food, and the economic and intelligent planning of meals. Teachers are becoming aware that much of their work in health education, consumer education, table manners, etc., can be forwarded by participation in the school lunch programme.

# EXCHANGE RATES

AVERAGE CLEARING QUOTATIONS AS ON 16TH DECEMBER, 1950

Country	Amount	Swiss Francs	Dollars
Afghanistan	100 afghani	25.15	5.80
Argentina	100 pesos	30.00	6.95
Australia	1 pound	9.82	2.27
Austria	100 schillings	20.60	4.77
Belgium	100 francs	8.71	2.02
Bolivia	100 bolivianos	7.28	1.70
Brazil	100 cruzeiros	15.00	35.00
Bulgaria	100 levas	1.55	0.36
Canada	1 dollar	4.11	0.95
Ceylon	1 rupee	0.92	0.21
Colombia	100 pesos	223.00	51.60
Costa Rica	100 colons	77.00	18.00
Czechoslovakia	100 crowns	8.75	2.00
Denmark	100 crowns	63.31	14.66
Dominican Republic	1 peso	4.35	1.00
Ecuador	100 sucres	29.00	6.67
Egypt	1 pound (= 1000 mill's)	12.60	2.90
Finland	100 marks	1.88	0.43
France	100 francs	1.25	0.29
Honduras	1 lempira	3.05	0.70
India	1 rupee (= 16 annas)	0.92	0.21
Ireland	1 pound	12.24	2.81
Israel	1 pound	12.10	2.78
Italy	100 liras	0.71	0.16
Luxemburg	100 francs	8.71	2.02
Monaco	100 francs	1.10	0.25
Netherlands	100 florins	115.05	26.45
New Zealand	1 pound	12.24	2.81
Norway	100 crowns	61.20	14.07
Panama	1 balboa	4.35	1.00
Persia	100 rials	13.35	3.04
Philippines	1 peso	2.17	0.50
Poland	100 zlotys (new issue)	108.20	24.87
Portugal	100 escudos	15.21	3.50
Salvador	1 colon	1.74	0.40
Spain	100 pesetas (free internal)	10.80	2.50
Sweden	100 crowns	84.50	19.43
Switzerland	100 francs	100.00	22.98
Thailand	100 bahts	34.83	8.00
Turkey	1 pound	1.15	0.26
Union of South Africa	1 pound	12.24	2.81
United Kingdom	1 pound	12.24	2.81
United States	1 dollar	4.35	1.00



# CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD . . . . .	5
QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION . . . . .	7
GENERAL SURVEY :	
SCHOOL MEALS . . . . .	9
ORGANISATION . . . . .	9
Organising Bodies	
Finance	
Installation	
Control	
RECIPIENTS . . . . .	17
Levels at which Services Exist	
Numbers of Recipients	
Categories of Pupils Served	
Payment for Meals	
MEALS SERVED . . . . .	22
Regulations on Composition of School Meals	
The Oslo Breakfast	
Educational Aims of School Meals	
CLOTHING . . . . .	26
ORGANISATION AND FINANCE . . . . .	26
RECIPIENTS . . . . .	28
STUDIES BY COUNTRIES :	
Afghanistan . . . . .	31
Argentina . . . . .	31
Australia . . . . .	32
Austria . . . . .	33
Belgium . . . . .	36
Bolivia . . . . .	39
Brazil . . . . .	40
Bulgaria . . . . .	41
Canada . . . . .	43
Ceylon . . . . .	50



	Page
Colombia . . . . .	52
Costa Rica . . . . .	54
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	56
Denmark . . . . .	59
Dominican Republic . . . . .	61
Ecuador . . . . .	63
Egypt . . . . .	65
Finland . . . . .	67
France . . . . .	69
Honduras . . . . .	73
India . . . . .	74
Ireland . . . . .	76
Israel . . . . .	78
Italy . . . . .	80
Luxemburg . . . . .	81
Monaco . . . . .	83
Netherlands . . . . .	84
New Zealand . . . . .	86
Norway . . . . .	87
Panama . . . . .	89
Persia . . . . .	90
Philippines . . . . .	91
Poland . . . . .	93
Portugal . . . . .	95
Salvador . . . . .	97
Spain . . . . .	98
Sweden . . . . .	100
Switzerland . . . . .	103
Thailand . . . . .	111
Turkey . . . . .	112
Union of South Africa . . . . .	113
United Kingdom (England and Wales) . . . . .	118
United States . . . . .	122
EXCHANGE RATES . . . . .	125